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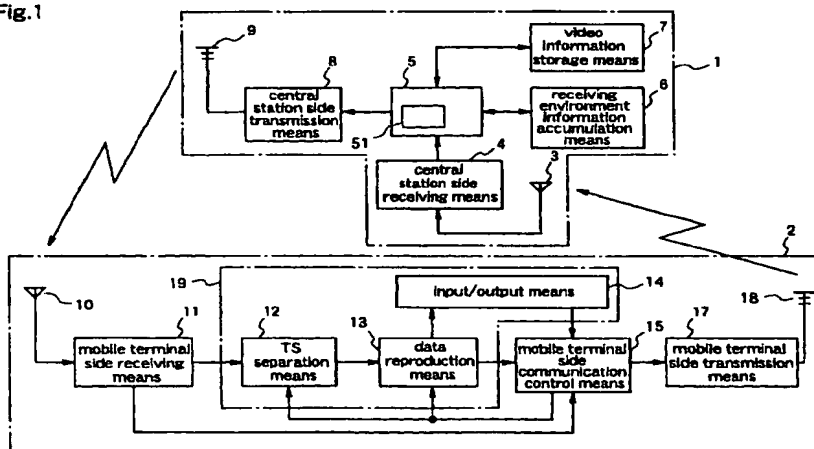
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(54) Method for distributing video information to mobile object by digital radio communication

(57) In a method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. In this method, the video information is hierarchized, and part of the video information in a hierarchical rank according to read right information transmitted together

with the request from a mobile terminal is made readable. Further, accounting on the distributed video information in the central station is performed based on accounting information from the mobile terminal. Furthermore, the mobile terminal transmits information indicating the receiving environment of the terminal to the central station together with the request, and the central station changes the method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors in the video information distributed to the mobile terminal, in accordance with the receiving environment information.

Fig.1



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Description**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5 [0001] The present invention relates to a method for distributing video information to a mobile object by digital radio communication, a central station unit used for the video information distribution method, and a mobile terminal unit used for the video information distribution method and, more particularly, to those capable of performing appropriate accounting on the distributed video information in accordance with the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit.

10 [0002] Further, the present invention relates to a method for distributing video information to a mobile object by digital radio communication, a central station unit used for the video information distribution method, and a mobile terminal unit used for the video information distribution method and, more particularly, to those capable of ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors of the distributed video information.

15 [0003] Moreover, the present invention relates to a digital video signal transmission/receiving method for transmitting/receiving a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal are multiplexed and modulated, in a digital transmission field, and a digital video signal transmission/receiving apparatus which transmits/receives the digital video signal.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 [0004] In CATV broadcasting, according to a request for video information from an arbitrary one of plural terminals to a central station, the central station distributes the video information to the terminal which has made the request.

[0005] Meanwhile, for example, Japanese Published Patent Application No. Hei. 8-32530 discloses a data broadcasting system which can perform flexible accounting as follows. That is, in a service operating company, different kinds of data are encrypted using different keys to be transmitted. In a data receiving unit, received data are recorded in an optical magnetic disk and, when the recorded data are decoded, accounting control is performed according to the kind of each data identified from the key used for the decoding and the amount of the data.

25 [0006] Further, for example, Japanese Published Patent Application No. Hei. 7-7728 discloses a pay per view (PPV) broadcasting system for satellite TV broadcasting, in which scrambled programs are descrambled to be viewed by the user, according to the charge paid by the user.

30 [0007] Furthermore, for example, Japanese Published Patent Application No. Hei. 7-283798 discloses a satellite broadcasting mobile receiving unit which realizes switching between a moving picture and a still picture without displaying a scrambled image when receiving scrambled satellite broadcasting by a mobile object.

[0008] When constructing a fee-charging video information distribution system which distributes video information requested by an arbitrary one of plural mobile terminals comprising terminals mounted on a mobile object, from the central station to the mobile terminal which has made the request, it is necessary to ensure the quality of the video information to be distributed before accounting on the video information distributed.

[0009] However, the receiving environment of the terminal varies because it is mounted on the mobile object and, therefore, it is difficult for the central station to perform accounting based on confirmation as to whether the quality of the distributed video information has been ensured or not, for each mobile terminal.

40 [0010] This problem cannot be solved by the above-described prior arts, i.e., the video information distribution method according to CATV broadcasting, the data broadcasting system (Japanese Published Patent Application No. Hei. 8-32530) and the PPV broadcasting system (Japanese Published Patent Application No. Hei. 7-7728), because, in these method and systems, a mobile object is not a target to which video information is distributed.

45 [0011] Further, since the satellite broadcasting mobile receiving apparatus (Japanese Published Patent Application No. Hei. 7-283798) is directed to realizing switching between a moving picture and a still picture without displaying a scrambled image, it cannot solve the above-mentioned problem.

[0012] By the way, recently, in fields of communication or broadcasting equipment, a digital transmission technique for multiplexing image signals or speech signals into a serial signal and transmitting a multiplexed signal, has been developed. An example of this digital transmission technique, SMPTE (Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers) for examining and determining standards for movie, TV broadcasting, and the like in the United States, has proposed a method in which auxiliary data including a speech signal or a control signal is packetized and multiplexed into a sink chip of an image signal, and then subjected to parallel-serial conversion, when transmitting a video signal.

55 [0013] Figure 25(a) shows a transmission format of the video signal transmitted according to the above method. In figure 25(a), reference numeral 101 denotes a video signal comprising a video signal period 102 and a video signal retrace line period 103. During the video signal period 102, the video signal is transmitted, and during the video signal retrace line period 103, the speech signal and the like is transmitted. Reference numeral 104 denotes a synchronization pattern signal which is multiplexed into a sink chip of the video signal retrace line period 103 together with auxiliary data 135 including a speech signal or a control signal.

[0014] Figure 25(b) shows a packet structure of the auxiliary data shown in figure 25(a). In the figure, reference numeral 111 denotes a flag indicating that this is a packet. 112 denotes a data identifier (ID) indicating a type of data. 113 denotes a serial number among packets of the same ID 112. 114 denotes the number of data indicating the number of data included in a data block 115 corresponding to a data body including speech data. 116 denotes a checksum which finds a checksum of the flag 111, the data ID 112, the serial number 113, and the data block 115. In summary, the packet of the auxiliary data is composed of a header comprising blocks of respective control signals, i.e., the flag 111, the data ID 112, and the serial number 113, the number of data 114, the data block 115 including the speech signal, and the checksum 116 for performing checksum.

[0015] Figure 26 is a block diagram showing a conventional video signal transmission apparatus. Here assume that the data body of the auxiliary data is speech data.

[0016] In the figure, reference numeral 121 denotes a time axis converter which periodically receives the speech signal via a terminal A, converts a time axis of the speech signal by converting a clock cycle of the speech signal to insert the speech signal into the sink chip (see figure 25(a)) of the video signal retrace line period 103, and outputs the resulting speech signal. Specifically, the time axis converter 121 is adapted to read out the speech signal stored in a memory field by field or frame by frame of the video signal at a sampling rate of the video signal only during a sink chip period. That is, during the other period, the speech signal is not read. 122 denotes a packet generator which receives the speech signal from the time-axis converter 121, and adds the flag 111, the data ID 112, the serial number 113, the number of data 114, and the checksum 116 to the data block, to generate a packet signal shown in figure 25(b). 123 denotes a synchronization pattern generator which combines several words of data patterns which the video signal or the packet signal does not have to generate a synchronization pattern. 124 denotes a multiplexer which multiplexes the video signal from a terminal B, the packet signal from the packet generator 122, and the synchronization pattern from the synchronization pattern generator 123 on the time axis. 125 denotes a P/S converter which converts parallel signals of multiplexed data into a serial signal. 126 denotes a scrambler (circuit) of a self-synchronization type which rearranges the serial signal from the P/S converter 125 and encrypts the same. 127 denotes an NRZI (non-return-to-zero-inverted) converter (circuit) which inverts a level of the serial signal from the scrambler 126 from "H" (high) to "L" (low) when it is at H level, and holds the level of the serial signal when it is at L level. Therefore, use of the scrambler 60 and the NRZI converter 70 removes DC (direct current) component contained in the video signal or the packet signal.

[0017] Subsequently, operation of the conventional video signal transmission apparatus so constructed.

[0018] The time axis converter 121 periodically receives the speech signal as an input via the terminal A and performs time axis conversion for the speech signal and outputs intermittent data of the speech signal read only during the sink chip period.

[0019] Receiving the intermittent data from the time axis converter 121, the packet generator 122 adds the flag 111, the data ID 112, the serial number 113, the number of data 114, and the checksum 116 to the data block to generate the packet signal shown in figure 25(b), and outputs the packet signal.

[0020] The synchronization pattern generator 123 combines several words of data patterns which the video signal or the packet signal does not have, to generate the synchronization pattern, and outputs the same.

[0021] The multiplexer 124 multiplexes the video signal from the terminal B, the packet signal from the packet generator 122, and the synchronization pattern from the synchronization pattern generator 123 on the time axis, and outputs the resulting signal.

[0022] The P/S converter 125 converts the parallel signals of multiplexed data into the serial signal and outputs the serial signal.

[0023] The scrambler 126 rearranges the serial signal from the P/S converter 125 and encrypts the same.

[0024] The NRZI (non-return-to-zero-inverted) converter 127 inverts the level of the serial signal from the scrambler from "H" (high) to "L" (low) when it is at H level, and holds the level of the serial signal when it is at L level. The converter 127 outputs the serial signal from which the DC component has been removed, through a terminal C, which is transmitted.

[0025] Figure 27 is a block diagram showing a conventional video signal receiving apparatus.

[0026] In the figure, reference numeral 131 denotes an NRZ (non-return-to-zero) converter (circuit) which receives the serial signal via a terminal D and performs signal processing corresponding to inverse conversion of signal processing of the NRZI converter 127 (see figure 25). 132 denotes a descrambler which performs signal processing corresponding to inverse conversion of signal processing of the scrambler 126 (figure 25). 133 denotes an S/P (serial-to-parallel) converter (circuit) which converts a multiplexed serial signal from the descrambler 132 into parallel signals. 134 denotes a synchronization detector which detects a synchronization pattern from the parallel signals output from the S/P converter 133 and rearranges the parallel signals into correct words. 135 denotes a separator which separates a signal of the correct words from the synchronization detector 134 into the video signal and the packet signal. 136 denotes a packet separator which checks a structure of the packet signal from the separator 135 and then takes out the data block including the speech signal from the packet signal. 137 denotes a time axis converter which performs time axis conversion for intermittent speech data from the packet separator 136 into a clock of the speech signal, to repro-

duce the speech signal.

[0027] Subsequently, a description will be given of operation of the conventional video signal receiving apparatus so constructed.

[0028] The NRZ (non-return-to-zero) converter 131 receives the serial signal via the terminal D and performs signal processing corresponding to inverse conversion of signal processing of the NRZI converter 127.

[0029] The descrambler 132 rearranges the serial signal from the NRZ converter 131 for restoration and outputs a descrambled signal.

[0030] The S/P converter 133 converts the multiplexed serial signal from the descrambler 132 into the parallel signals.

[0031] The synchronization detector 134 detects the synchronization pattern from the parallel signals from the S/P converter 133 and rearranges the parallel signals into the correct words.

[0032] The separator 135 separates the signal of the correct words into the video signal and the packet signal by generating a timing pulse for separation using a position where the synchronization pattern is multiplexed as a reference, and outputs the video signal via a terminal E and the packet signal to the packet separator 136.

[0033] The packet separator 136 checks the structure of the packet signal from the separator 135 and then takes out the data block including the speech signal from the packet signal.

[0034] The time axis converter 137 performs time axis conversion for the intermittent speech data from the packet separator 136 into the clock of the speech signal, to reproduce the speech signal, and outputs the reproduced signal via a terminal F.

[0035] Use of the above video signal transmission apparatus and video signal receiving apparatus enables to multiplex the video signal and the speech signal to make serial transmission and take out the video signal and the speech signal from the multiplexed signal.

[0036] In the construction described above (see figure 26), no problems arise when no transmission errors occur. However, when long-distance transmission is made or there is external interference such as multi-pass interference which is experienced by a mobile object performing a receiving process, and thereby the transmission errors tend to occur, not only the video signal but the speech signal is degraded. In addition, if the transmission errors increase, the video signal or the speech signal cannot be received.

[0037] In mobile object receiving in ground wave digital broadcasting, when an image signal is degraded, a moving picture is changed into a still picture, and when a speech signal is significantly degraded, it is muted in order to lower noise. In case of an image, use of the still picture gets rid of disorder of the image to make it visually preferable to the user, but in case of a voice, the voice itself goes out, although noise is lowered. In particular, since the multi-pass interference frequently occurs in the mobile object, voiceless state and voiced state are repeated, which makes it extremely difficult for the user to hear the voice.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0038] The present invention is made to solve the above-mentioned problem and an object of the present invention is to provide a method for distributing video information to a mobile object by digital radio communication, a central station unit used for the video information distribution method, and a mobile terminal unit used for the video information distribution method, which are able to perform appropriate accounting on the distributed video information in accordance with the receiving environment of the mobile terminal.

[0039] It is another object of the present invention to provide a method for distributing video information to a mobile object by digital radio communication, a central station unit used for the video information distribution method, and a mobile terminal unit used for the video information distribution method, which can ensure the transmission quality relating to code errors of the distributed video information.

[0040] It is still another object of the present invention to provide a digital video signal transmission/receiving method and a digital video signal transmission/receiving apparatus, in which a digital speech signal can be reproduced if mobile object receiving is performed in worse condition, in a system where a digital image signal and the digital speech signal are multiplexed and modulated.

[0041] Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the detailed description that follows. The detailed description and specific embodiments described are provided only for illustration since various additions and modifications within the spirit and the scope of the invention will be apparent to those skill in the art from the detailed description.

[0042] According to a 1st aspect of the present invention, there is provided a video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. In this method, the video information is hierarchized to obtain hierarchical video information, and part of the

hierarchical video information in a hierarchical rank according to read right information which is transmitted from the mobile terminal unit at the time of the request is made readable. Therefore, video information according to a minute request from the mobile terminal unit can be efficiently and appropriately distributed.

[0043] According to a 2nd aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 1st aspect, a decryption key, with which part of the video information in a hierarchical rank specified by the mobile terminal unit which has made the request can be read, is added to the hierarchical video information. Therefore, video information according to a minute request from the mobile terminal unit can be efficiently and appropriately distributed based on the decryption key.

[0044] According to a 3rd aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 1st aspect, the read right information is an ID. Also in this case, the same effects as described above are achieved.

[0045] According to a 4th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 1st aspect, the hierarchical video information is map information. Also in this case, the same effects as described above are achieved.

[0046] According to a 5th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 1st aspect, accounting for the video information distributed from the central station is performed according to a hierarchical rank of the video information, based on accounting information and read right information which specifies the hierarchical rank of the video information, the accounting information and the read right information being transmitted from the mobile terminal unit which has made the request. Therefore, appropriate accounting can be performed according to the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit and the hierarchical rank requested by the mobile terminal unit.

[0047] According to a 6th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. In this method, accounting for the distributed video information in the central station unit is performed in accordance with accounting information transmitted from the mobile terminal unit which has made the request. Therefore, reliable accounting can be performed on the distributed video information in accordance with the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit.

[0048] According to a 7th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to any of the 5th and 6th aspects, the accounting information includes information as to whether the distributed video information has been normally received or not; and accounting in the central station unit is performed only when the accounting information includes the information indicating that the distributed video information has been normally received. Therefore, appropriate accounting can be performed on the distributed video information in accordance with the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit.

[0049] According to an 8th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to any of the 5th and 6th aspects, the accounting information includes information indicating the receiving error rate of the distributed video information; and accounting in the central station unit is performed according to the receiving error rate included in the accounting information. Therefore, an appropriate accounting based on the receiving error rate can be performed on the distributed video information in accordance with the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit.

[0050] According to a 9th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to any of the 5th and 6th aspects, the accounting information in the mobile terminal unit is transmitted to the central station unit together with request information at the next request. Therefore, the accounting information from the mobile terminal unit can be transmitted efficiently to the central station unit, and accounting on the video information which has been requested last time can be performed reliably.

[0051] According to a 10th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to any of the 5th and 6th aspects, the accounting information in the mobile terminal unit is transmitted to the central station unit when a predetermined period of time has passed after the mobile terminal unit received the video information distributed from the central station unit. Therefore, even when the mobile terminal unit does not output a new request after a predetermined period of time has passed or even when the main power supply of the mobile object is turned off, accounting on the requested video information is performed reliably.

[0052] According to an 11th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 9th aspect, the accounting information in the mobile terminal unit is transmitted through a telephone line, a beacon, an automatic toll gate, or a satellite. Also in this case, the same effects as described above are achieved.

[0053] According to a 12th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 9th aspect, the accounting information in the mobile terminal unit is transmitted through a telephone line; and authentication of the accounting information in the central station unit is performed by utilizing telephone number notification of the user of the mobile terminal unit. Also in this case, the same effects as described above are achieved.

[0054] According to a 13th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a central station unit used for a video information distribution method for distributing video information from the central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. This central station unit comprises: receiving means for receiving the request transmitted from the mobile terminal unit by the radio communication; transmission means for distributing the requested video information to the mobile terminal unit by the digital radio communication; and communication control means for performing control so that the video information has a hierarchical structure, and part of the video information in a hierarchical rank according to read right information taken from the request received by the receiving means, can be read by the mobile terminal unit. Therefore, video information according to a minute request from the mobile terminal unit can be efficiently and appropriately distributed.

[0055] According to a 14th aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 13th aspect, the communication control means adds a decryption key, with which part of the video information in a hierarchical rank specified by the mobile terminal unit which has made the request can be read, to the video information in accordance with read right information specifying the hierarchical rank. Therefore, video information according to a minute request from the mobile terminal unit can be efficiently and appropriately distributed based on the decryption key.

[0056] According to a 15th aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 14th aspect, the read right information is an ID. Also in this case, the same effects as described above are achieved.

[0057] According to a 16th aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to any of the 13th and 14th aspects, the hierarchical video information is map information. Also in this case, the same effects as described above are achieved.

[0058] According to a 17th aspect of the present invention, the central static unit according to any of the 13th and 14th aspect, comprises: the receiving means receiving accounting information from the mobile terminal unit which has made the request; and accounting means performing accounting for the video information distributed according to the hierarchical rank of the video information, based on the accounting information and the read right information. Therefore, appropriate accounting can be performed according to the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit and the hierarchical rank requested by the mobile terminal unit.

[0059] According to a 18th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a central station unit used for a video information distribution method for distributing video information from the central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. This central station unit comprises: receiving means for receiving accounting information which has been transmitted together with the request information from the mobile terminal unit by the radio communication; transmission means for transmitting the requested video information to the mobile terminal unit by the digital radio communication; and accounting control means for performing accounting on the requested video information in accordance with the accounting information received by the receiving means. Therefore, reliable accounting can be performed on the distributed video information in accordance with the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit.

[0060] According to a 19th aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 18th aspect, the accounting information includes information as to whether the distributed video information has been normally received or not; and the accounting control means performs accounting only when the accounting information includes the information indicating that the distributed video information has been normally received. Therefore, appropriate accounting can be performed on the distributed video information in accordance with the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit.

[0061] According to a 20th aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 18th aspect, the accounting information includes information indicating the receiving error rate of the distributed video information; and the accounting control means performs accounting according to the receiving error rate included in the accounting information. Therefore, an appropriate accounting based on the receiving error rate can be performed on the distributed video information in accordance with the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit.

[0062] According to a 21st aspect of the present invention, the central station unit according to the 18th aspect further comprises communication control means which performs authentication of the accounting information received by the receiving means, by utilizing telephone number notification of the user of the mobile terminal unit. Therefore, the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors can be selected according to the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit, whereby the transmission quality relating to code errors of the video information distributed to the mobile terminal unit can be ensured.

[0063] According to a 22nd aspect of the present invention, there is provided a mobile terminal unit used for video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at

least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. The mobile terminal unit comprises input means for inputting the request; transmission means for transmitting, by the radio communication, read right information which enables the central station unit to read a predetermined hierarchical rank of video information requested to the central station unit; receiving means for receiving video information distributed from the central station unit by the digital radio communication; communication control means for performing control so that the video information in the hierarchical rank according to the read right information included in the video information received by the receiving means can be read; and reproduction means for reproducing the video information received by the receiving means, under control of the communication control means. Therefore, video information according to a minute request from the mobile terminal unit can be efficiently and appropriately distributed.

[0064] According to a 23rd aspect of the present invention, there is provided a mobile terminal unit used for video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. This mobile terminal unit comprises: input means for inputting the request; transmission means for transmitting, by the radio communication, read right information which enables the central station unit to read a predetermined hierarchical rank of video information requested to the central station unit; receiving means for receiving video information which has been given a decryption key in the central station unit and then distributed from the central station unit by the digital radio communication; communication control means for performing control so that the decryption key in the video information received by the receiving means is decrypted to make the video information in the hierarchical rank according to the read right information readable; and reproduction means for reproducing the video information received by the receiving means, under control of the communication control means. Therefore, video information according to a minute request from the mobile terminal unit can be efficiently and appropriately distributed based on the decryption key.

[0065] According to a 24th aspect of the present invention, in the mobile terminal unit according to any of the 22nd and 23rd aspects, the read right information is an ID. Also in this case, the same effects as described above are achieved.

[0066] According to a 25th aspect of the present invention, in the mobile terminal unit according to any of the 22nd and 23rd aspects, the hierarchical video information is map information. Also in this case, the same effects as described above are achieved.

[0067] According to a 26th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a mobile terminal unit used for video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. This mobile terminal unit comprises: input means for inputting the request; transmission means for transmitting the request for video information to the central station unit by the radio communication; receiving means for receiving video information distributed from the central station unit by the digital radio communication; reproduction means for reproducing the video information received by the receiving means; and communication control means for performing control so that accounting information for the video information received by the receiving means is transmitted to the central station unit together with request information input to the input means at the next request. Therefore, the accounting information from the mobile terminal unit can be transmitted efficiently to the central station unit, and accounting on the video information which has been requested last time can be performed reliably.

[0068] According to a 27th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a mobile terminal unit used for video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. This mobile terminal unit comprises: input means for inputting the request; transmission means for transmitting the request for video information to the central station unit by the radio communication; receiving means for receiving video information distributed from the central station unit by the digital radio communication; reproduction means for reproducing the video information received by the receiving means; and communication control means for performing control so that accounting information for the video information received by the receiving means is transmitted to the central station when a predetermined period of time has passed after the

receiving means received the video information. Therefore, even when the mobile terminal unit does not output a new request after a predetermined period of time has passed or even when the main power supply of the mobile object is turned off, accounting on the requested video information is performed reliably.

[0069] According to a 28th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. In this method the mobile terminal unit transmits receiving environment information indicating the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit, to the central station unit, when the mobile terminal unit transmits the request; and the central station unit changes a method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors in the distribution of video information to the mobile terminal unit, in accordance with the receiving environment information transmitted from the mobile terminal unit. Therefore, the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors can be selected according to the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit, whereby the transmission quality relating to code errors of the video information distributed to the mobile terminal unit can be ensured.

[0070] According to a 29th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 28th aspect, the method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors is to change a first modulation method in the distribution of video information to a second modulation method whose resistance to occurrence of code errors in the distribution of video information is different from that of the first modulation method. Therefore, the transmission quality relating to code errors of the video information distributed to the mobile terminal unit can be ensured by a simple method.

[0071] According to a 30th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 28th aspect, the method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors is to change the redundancy of the video information to be distributed. Since an error correcting code for changing the redundancy is added to the video information to be distributed, even when a plurality of requests from different mobile terminal units are simultaneously transmitted to the central station unit, the transmission quality relating to code errors can be ensured adaptively to each mobile terminal unit.

[0072] According to a 31st aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 28th aspect, the receiving environment information is information indicating that the terminal unit is a mobile terminal unit. Therefore, in the case where fixed terminals and mobile terminals coexist, when the terminal is a mobile terminal, the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors can be strengthened, whereby the transmission quality of the video information distributed to the mobile terminal can be ensured.

[0073] According to a 32nd aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 28th aspect, the mobile terminal unit detects a code error rate in the distribution of video information to store it; and the mobile terminal unit transmits the code error rate as the receiving environment information, to the central station unit, when it transmits the request. Therefore, the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors can be selected based on the result of distribution of the video information, whereby the transmission quality of the video information can be ensured accurately.

[0074] According to a 33rd aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 28th aspect, the mobile terminal unit detects a location of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted and transmits the location to the central station unit as the receiving environment information. Therefore, when the code error rate with respect to the location in the distribution area of video information is known, this is utilized to reliably ensure the transmission quality relating to the code error of video information to be distributed to the mobile terminal unit.

[0075] According to a 34th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 33rd aspect, the mobile terminal unit further detects and holds a code error rate in distribution of the video information, and transmits the code error rate and the location of the mobile object to the central station unit as the receiving environment information when it makes a request, and the central station unit stores the location of the mobile object and the code error rate which are transmitted from the mobile terminal unit as a map showing a receiving environment of a video information distribution area, and performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error in distribution of the video information to the mobile terminal unit when the mobile terminal unit makes a request. Since a code error rate of the mobile terminal unit can be predicted according to the map when it makes a request, it is possible to select the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error according to the predicted code error rate and thereby reliably ensure the transmission quality relating to the code error of video information to be distributed to the mobile terminal unit.

[0076] According to a 35th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 28th aspect, the mobile terminal unit detects a speed of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, and transmit the speed to the central station as the receiving environment information. Since the code error

varies according to the speed of the mobile object, it is possible to select the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error according to the speed and thereby reliably ensure the transmission quality relating to the code error of video information to be distributed to the mobile terminal.

[0077] According to a 36th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 28th aspect, the mobile terminal unit generates planned course information of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, by using car navigation, and transmits the planned course information to the central station unit as the receiving environment information. Therefore, depending upon whether or not there is a radio communication obstacle in the planned course, it is possible to select the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error and thereby reliably ensure the transmission quality relating to the code error of video information to be distributed to the mobile terminal.

[0078] According to a 37th aspect of the present invention, in the video information distribution method according to the 36th aspect, the mobile terminal unit obtains road information about a road corresponding to the planned course of the mobile object, and transmits the road information and the planned course information to the central station unit as the receiving environment information. When there is a radio communication obstacle in the planned course, it is decided that the mobile terminal will be almost around the obstacle at time when requested video information is to be distributed, according to the speed of the mobile object and the information of the existence/non-existence of road construction or traffic congestion obtained from the road information. Hence, it is possible to select the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error according to a decision result and thereby reliably ensure the transmission quality relating to the code error of video information to be distributed to the mobile terminal.

[0079] According to a 38th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a central station unit used for a video information distribution method for distributing video information from the central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. This central station unit comprises: receiving means which receives receiving environment information transmitted together with the request from the mobile terminal unit by the radio communication; transmission means for performing transmission to the mobile terminal unit by the digital radio communication; and communication control means for transmitting the video information corresponding to the request received by the receiving means to the mobile terminal unit which has made the request by using the transmission means, and changing a method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors in this transmission, in accordance with the receiving environment information received by the receiving means. Therefore, the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors can be selected according to the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit whereby the transmission quality relating to code errors of the video information distributed to the mobile terminal unit can be ensured.

[0080] According to a 39th aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 38th aspect, the communication control means changes a first modulation method in the transmission of video information to a second modulation method whose resistance to occurrence of code errors in the transmission is different from that of the first modulation method, as the method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors. Therefore, the transmission quality relating to code errors of the video information distributed to the mobile terminal unit can be ensured by a simple method.

[0081] According to a 40th aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 38th aspect, the communication control means changes the redundancy of the video information to be distributed, as the method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors. Since an error correcting code for changing the redundancy is added to the video information to be distributed, even when a plurality of requests from different mobile terminal units are simultaneously transmitted to the central station unit, the transmission quality relating to code errors can be ensured adaptively to each mobile terminal unit.

[0082] According to a 41st aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 38th aspect, the receiving environment information is information indicating that the terminal unit is a mobile terminal unit; and the communication control means changes the method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors, in accordance with the information indicating that the terminal unit is a mobile terminal unit. Therefore, in the case where fixed terminals and mobile terminals coexist, when the terminal is a mobile terminal, the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors can be strengthened, whereby the transmission quality of the video information distributed to the mobile terminal can be ensured.

[0083] According to a 42nd aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 38th aspect, the receiving environment information is a code error rate in the transmission of video information; and the communication control means changes the method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors, in accordance with code error rate received by the receiving means. Therefore, the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors can be selected based on the result of distribution of the video information whereby the transmission quality

ity of the video information can be ensured accurately.

[0084] According to a 43rd aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 38th aspect, the receiving environment information is a location of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, and the communication control means performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error, according to the location of the mobile object received by the receiving means. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0085] According to a 44th aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 43rd aspect, the receiving environment information is the location of the mobile object and a code error rate in transmission of the video information, and the communication control means stores the location of the mobile object and the code error rate which are received by the receiving means, as a map showing a receiving environment of a video information distribution area, and upon receipt of a request from the mobile terminal unit through the receiving means, performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error in transmission of video information to the mobile terminal unit which has made the request, according to the stored map. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0086] According to a 45th aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 38th aspect, the receiving environment information is a speed of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, and the communication control means performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error, according to the speed of the mobile object received by the receiving means. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0087] According to a 46th aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 38th aspect, the receiving environment information is a planned course of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, and the communication control means performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error, according to the planned course of the mobile object received by the receiving means. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0088] According to a 47th aspect of the present invention, in the central station unit according to the 46th aspect, the receiving environment information is the planned course of the mobile object and road information about a road corresponding to the planned course, and the communication control means performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error, according to the planned course of the mobile object and the road information which are received by the receiving means. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0089] According to a 48th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a mobile terminal unit used for a video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. This mobile terminal unit comprises: receiving means for receiving video information transmitted from the central station unit by the digital radio communication; reproduction means for reproducing the video information received by the receiving means; input means for inputting the request; transmission means for performing transmission to the central station unit by the radio communication; and communication control means for transmitting receiving environment information which indicates the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit, to the central station unit by using the transmission means, together with the request, when the request is input to the input means.

[0090] According to a 49th aspect of the present invention, in the mobile terminal unit according to the 48th aspect, the video information is transmission from the central station unit such that the modulation method therefor has been changed amongst a plurality of modulation methods having different resistances to occurrence of code errors in the digital radio communication; and the receiving means is provided with a plurality of demodulation means corresponding to the plural modulation methods so that it can demodulate the transmitted video information.

[0091] According to a 50th aspect of the present invention, in the mobile terminal unit according to the 48th aspect, the video information is transmitted from the central station unit such that the redundancy thereof has been changed; the communication control means makes the reproduction means correct errors in the video information transmitted and received by the receiving means in accordance with the changed redundancy; and the reproduction means reproduces the error-corrected video information. Since an error correcting code for changing the redundancy is added to the video information to be distributed, even when a plurality of requests from different mobile terminal units are simultaneously transmitted to the central station unit, the transmission quality relating to code errors can be ensured adaptively to each mobile terminal unit.

[0092] According to a 51st aspect of the present invention, in the mobile terminal unit according to the 48th aspect, the communication control means transmits, as the receiving environment information, information indicating that this terminal unit is a mobile terminal unit. Therefore, in the case where fixed terminals and mobile terminals coexist, when the terminal is a mobile terminal, the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors can be

strengthened, whereby the transmission quality of the video information distributed to the mobile terminal can be ensured.

[0093] According to a 52nd aspect of the present invention, in the mobile terminal unit according to the 48th aspect, the receiving means detects a code error rate in the digital radio communication; and the communication control means stores the code error rate detected by the receiving means and, when the next request is input to the input means, the communication control means transmits the stored code error rate to the central station unit, as the receiving environment information, together with the request. Therefore, the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors can be selected based on the result of distribution of the video information, whereby the transmission quality of the video information can be ensured accurately

[0094] According to a 53rd aspect of the present invention, in the mobile terminal unit according to the 48th aspect, further comprises: location information detection means for detecting a location of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, and the communication control means transmits the location of the mobile object detected by the location information detection means, to the central station unit, as the receiving environment information. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0095] According to a 54th aspect of the present invention, in the mobile terminal unit according to the 53rd aspect, the receiving means detects a code error rate in the digital radio communication, and the communication control means holds the code error rate detected by the receiving means, and when a request is input by the input means, transmits the request, the code error rate and the location of the mobile object as the receiving environment information, to the central station unit. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0096] According to a 55th aspect of the present invention, the mobile terminal unit according to the 48th aspects, further comprises: location information detection means for detecting a speed of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, and the communication control means transmits the speed of the mobile object detected by the location information detection means, to the central station unit, as the receiving environment information. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0097] According to a 56th aspect of the present invention, the mobile terminal unit according to the 48th aspect, further comprises: location information detection means for generating planned course information of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, by using car navigation, and the communication control means transmits the planned course information of the mobile object generated by the location information detection means, to the central station unit, as the receiving environment information. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0098] According to a 57th aspect of the present invention, in the mobile terminal unit according to the 56th aspect, the location information detection means obtains road information of a road corresponding to the planned course of the mobile object, and the communication control means transmits the road information obtained by the location information detection means, and the planned course information, to the central station unit, as the receiving environment information. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0099] According to a 58th aspect of the present invention, a digital video signal transmission method for transmitting a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal are multiplexed, comprises: modulating the digital speech signal by first modulation to provide a fixed receiving digital speech signal, and modulating the digital speech signal by second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation, to provide a mobile object receiving digital speech signal; and transmitting a digital video signal in which the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal are multiplexed. When receiving the video signal at a receiving end, the fixed receiving speech signal is used in a preferable receiving state, while if the transmission error such as the multi-pass interference occurs, the mobile object receiving speech signal is used, thereby reproducing the speech signal correctly.

[0100] According to a 59th aspect of the present invention, in the digital video signal transmission method according to the 58th aspect, a frequency bandwidth of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal is made narrower than a frequency bandwidth of the fixed receiving digital speech signal. Therefore, not only the mobile object receiving speech signal is resistive to the transmission error but its quality is ensured without affecting hearing.

[0101] According to a 60th aspect of the present invention, in the digital video signal transmission method according to 59th aspect, wherein the frequency bandwidth of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal is set to 3-4 kHz and the frequency bandwidth of the fixed receiving digital speech signal is set to 20 kHz. Therefore, the both signals can be transmitted in almost the same time.

[0102] According to a 61st aspect of the present, in the digital video signal transmission method according to the 58th aspect, accounting information is added to the mobile object receiving digital speech signal. Therefore, when using the accounting information at the receiving end, accounting is performed to usage of the digital signal transmission system depending on how the user uses the mobile object receiving speech signal.

[0103] According to a 62nd aspect of the present invention, a digital video signal transmission apparatus for transmitting a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal which are externally input are multiplexed, modulates the digital speech signal by first modulation to provide a

fixed receiving digital speech signal; modulates the digital speech signal by second modulation which provides higher resistibility to an transmission error than the first modulation, to provide a mobile object receiving digital speech signal; and transmits a digital video signal in which the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal are multiplexed. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0104] According to a 63rd aspect of the present invention, a digital video signal transmission apparatus for transmitting a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal which are externally input are multiplexed, comprises: image encoding means which compresses the digital image signal externally input; speech encoding means which compresses the digital speech signal externally input into a compressed digital speech signal and outputs the compressed digital speech signal as a fixed receiving digital speech signal and a mobile object receiving digital speech signal; transport stream multiplexing means which packetizes the digital image signal from the image encoding means, the fixed receiving digital speech signal and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal from the speech encoding means and multiplexes the resulting packets into a transport stream; transmission line encoding means which performs error protection for each of the packets composing the transport stream multiplexed by the transport stream multiplexing means and hierarchizes the packets in such a way that packets of the digital image signal and the fixed receiving digital speech signal are positioned in higher layers in a hierarchy and a packet of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal is positioned in a lower layer in the hierarchy; orthogonal frequency division multiplexing modulation means which modulates the packet of the higher layer by first modulation to provide a modulated fixed receiving digital speech signal and modulates the packet of the lower layer by second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation to provide a modulated mobile object receiving digital speech signal, among the hierarchized packets from the transmission line encoding means; and a transmitter which receives a modulated digital image signal, the modulated fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the modulated mobile object receiving digital speech signal from the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing modulation means, and transmits a digital video signal in which the modulated digital image signal, the modulated fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the modulated mobile object receiving digital speech signal are time-division multiplexed. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0105] According to a 64th aspect of the present invention, in the digital video signal transmission apparatus according to the 62nd aspect, a frequency bandwidth of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal is made narrower than a frequency bandwidth of the fixed receiving digital speech signal. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0106] According to a 65th aspect of the present invention, in the digital video signal transmission apparatus according to the 64th aspect, the frequency bandwidth of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal is set to 3-4 kHz and the frequency bandwidth of the fixed receiving digital speech signal is set to 20 kHz. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0107] According to a 66th aspect of the present invention, in the digital video signal transmission apparatus according to the 62nd aspect, accounting information is added to the mobile object receiving digital speech signal. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0108] According to 67th aspect of the present invention, a digital video signal receiving method which receives a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal are multiplexed as an input, and reproduces the digital image signal and the digital speech signal from the received digital video signal, wherein the digital video signal comprises a fixed receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating the digital speech signal according to first modulation and a mobile object receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating the digital speech signal according to second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation, and the digital image signal, and the fixed receiving digital speech signal, the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, and the digital image signal are multiplexed, and the method comprises: a demodulation step for receiving and demodulating the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal; a receiving status detecting step for detecting a signal level of the received digital video signal and outputting a control signal when a detected value is lower than a preset value; and a speech switching control step for receiving the fixed receiving digital speech signal from a fixed receiving speech output as an input and outputting the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and when the signal level of the received digital video signal is lower than the preset value, performing switching to a mobile object receiving speech output to receive the mobile object receiving digital speech signal as an input and outputting the mobile object receiving digital speech signal. When receiving the video signal at a receiving end, the fixed receiving speech signal is used in a preferable receiving state, while if the transmission error such as the multi-pass interference occurs, the mobile object receiving speech signal is used, thereby reproducing the digital speech signal correctly.

[0109] According to a 68th the aspect of the present invention, a digital video signal receiving method which receives a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal are multiplexed as an input, and reproduces the digital image signal and the digital speech signal from the received dig-

ital video signal, wherein the digital video signal comprises a fixed receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating the digital speech signal according to first modulation and a mobile object receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating a signal resulting from addition of accounting information to the digital speech signal according to second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation, and the digital image signal, and the fixed receiving digital speech signal, the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, and the digital image signal are multiplexed, and the method comprises: a demodulation step for receiving and demodulating the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal; a receiving status detecting step for detecting a signal level of the received digital video signal and outputting a control signal when a detected value is lower than a preset value; a speech switching control step for receiving the fixed receiving digital speech signal from a fixed receiving speech output as an input and outputting the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and when the signal level of the received digital video signal is lower than the preset value, performing switching to a mobile object receiving speech output to receive the mobile object receiving digital speech signal as an input, extracting and storing the accounting information, and outputting the mobile object receiving digital speech signal; and an accounting information input/output step for performing accounting to usage of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal according to the stored accounting information. Therefore, when using the accounting information at the receiving end, accounting is performed to usage of the digital signal transmission system depending on how the user uses the mobile object receiving speech signal.

[0110] According to a 69th aspect of the present invention, a digital video signal receiving apparatus which receives a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal are multiplexed as an input, and reproduces the digital image signal and the digital speech signal from the received digital video signal, wherein the digital video signal comprises a fixed receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating the digital speech signal according to first modulation and a mobile object receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating a signal resulting from addition of accounting information to the digital speech signal according to second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation, and the digital image signal, and the fixed receiving digital speech signal, the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, and the digital image signal are multiplexed, and the apparatus comprises: a tuner which receives the digital video signal; orthogonal frequency division multiplexing demodulation means which demodulates the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal; modulation division means which subjects demodulated signals from the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing demodulation means to modulation division, demapping in ways adapted to respective modulation methods, and then modulation composition; transport stream separating means which reproduces a transport stream from modulation-composited signals from the modulation division means, corrects errors for each of packets composing the transport stream, separates the packets into the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, and outputs the digital image signal, the fixed speech receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, from a video output, a fixed receiving speech output, and a mobile object receiving speech output, respectively; a receiving status detection means which detects a signal level of the received digital video signal and outputting a control signal when a detected value is lower than a preset value; a speech switching control means which receives the fixed receiving digital speech signal from the fixed receiving speech output as an input and outputs the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and when receiving the control signal from the receiving status detection means, performs switching to the mobile object receiving speech output to receive the mobile object receiving digital speech signal as an input and outputs the mobile object receiving digital speech signal; a decoder which receives and decodes the digital image signal from the transport stream separating means, and either the fixed receiving digital speech signal or the mobile object receiving digital speech signal output from the speech switching control means; a display which displays a decoded image; and a speaker system which plays back decoded speech. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

[0111] According to a 70th aspect of the present invention, a digital video signal receiving apparatus which receives a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal are multiplexed as an input, and reproduces the digital image signal and the digital speech signal from the received digital video signal, wherein the digital video signal comprises a fixed receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating the digital speech signal according to first modulation and a mobile object receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating a signal resulting from addition of accounting information to the digital speech signal according to second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation, and the digital image signal, and the fixed receiving digital speech signal, the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, and the digital image signal are multiplexed, and the apparatus comprises: a tuner which receives the digital video signal; orthogonal frequency division multiplexing demodulation means which demodulates the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal; modulation division means which subjects demodulated signals from the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing demodulation means to modulation division, demapping in ways adapted to respective modulation methods, and then modulation composition; transport stream separating means which reproduces a transport stream from modulation-composited signals from the modulation division

sion means, corrects errors for each of packets composing the transport stream, separates the packets into the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, and outputs the digital image signal, the fixed speech receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, from a video output, a fixed receiving speech output, and a mobile object receiving speech output, respectively; a receiving status detection means which detects a signal level of the received digital video signal and outputting a control signal when a detected value is lower than a preset value; a speech switching control step which receives the fixed receiving digital speech signal from a fixed receiving speech output as an input and outputs the fixed receiving speech, and when the signal level of the received digital video signal is lower than the preset value, performs switching to the mobile object receiving speech output to receive the mobile object receiving digital speech signal as an input, extracts and stores the accounting information, and outputs the mobile object receiving digital speech signal; accounting information input/output means which performs accounting to usage of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal according to the stored accounting information; a decoder which receives and decodes the digital image signal from the transport stream separating means, and either the fixed receiving digital speech signal or the mobile object receiving digital speech signal output from the speech switching control means; a display which displays a decoded image; and a speaker system which plays back decoded speech. Therefore, the same effects described above are achieved.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0112]

Figure 1 is a block diagram showing a central station unit and a mobile terminal unit for use by a method for distributing video information to a mobile object (video information distribution method) by digital radio communication according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a diagram showing a data format of a digital communication signal for use by the video information distribution method shown in figure 1.

Figures 3(a) and 3(b) are diagrams showing another data format of the digital communication signal for use by the video information distribution method shown in figure 1.

Figures 4(a) and 4(b) are diagrams showing images in which video information is map information.

Figure 5 is a diagram showing hierarchy information which specifies ranks in a hierarchy of video information.

Figure 6 is a block diagram showing accounting information control means and accounting status storage means included in the central station unit shown in figure 1.

Figures 7(a)-7(c) are diagrams showing a file of accounting status stored in accounting status storage means shown in figure 5.

Figure 8 is a flowchart showing an accounting process.

Figure 9 is a block diagram showing a central station unit and a mobile terminal unit for use by a method for distributing video information to a mobile object by digital radio communication according to modification of the first embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 10 is a block diagram showing a central station unit and a mobile terminal unit for use by a method for distributing video information to a mobile object by digital radio communication according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 11 is a diagram showing a transmission quality management table used for ensuring transmission quality relating to a code error in transmission of video information by a central station side communication control means included in the central station unit shown in figure 10.

Figure 12 is a block diagram showing a structure of a part of the central station side communication control means shown in figure 10, for adding an error-correcting code to video information.

Figures 13(a)-13(c) are diagrams showing data processing operation of a data division unit and an error correction generation unit shown in figure 12, wherein figure 13(a) shows a state in which one video information is divided, figure 13(b) shows a state in which divided data attribute information is added to one divided data, and figure 13(c) shows a state in which an error-correcting code is added to the divided data to which the divided data attribute information has been added.

Figure 14 is a block diagram showing a central station unit and a mobile terminal unit for use by a method for distributing video information to a mobile object by digital radio communication according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 15 is a diagram showing a transmission quality management table used for ensuring transmission quality relating to a code error in transmission of video information by a central station side communication control means included in the central station unit shown in figure 14.

Figure 16 is a block diagram showing a central station unit and a mobile terminal unit for use by a method for distributing video information to a mobile object by digital radio communication according to a fourth embodiment of

the present invention.

Figure 17 is a diagram showing a transmission quality management table used for ensuring transmission quality relating to a code error in transmission of video information by a central station side communication control means included in the central station unit shown in figure 16.

Figure 18 is a diagram showing a structure of a transmission TS (transport stream) transmitted from a digital video signal transmission apparatus according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 19 is a block diagram showing a digital video signal transmission apparatus of the fifth embodiment.

Figure 20 is a block diagram showing a detailed structure of an OFDM (orthogonal frequency division multiplexing) modulator shown in figure 19.

Figure 21 is a block diagram showing another structure of the digital video signal transmission apparatus of the fifth embodiment.

Figure 22 is a block diagram showing a digital video signal receiving apparatus according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 23 is a diagram showing a receiving TS received by the digital video signal receiving apparatus shown in figure 22.

Figure 24 is a block diagram showing another structure of the digital video signal receiving apparatus of the sixth embodiment.

Figures 25(a) and 25(b) are diagrams showing a conventional video signal transmission format.

Figure 26 is a block diagram showing a conventional video signal transmission apparatus.

Figure 27 is a block diagram showing a conventional video signal receiving apparatus.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0113] Hereinafter, embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the drawings.

Embodiment 1.

[0114] Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating structures of a central station unit and a mobile terminal unit which are used in a method for distributing video information to a mobile object by digital radio communication according to a first embodiment of the invention.

[0115] In figure 1, reference numeral 1 designates a central station unit placed on the ground (hereinafter referred to simply as a central station), and numeral 2 designates a mobile terminal unit mounted on a mobile object (hereinafter referred to simply as a mobile terminal). The central station 1, at least one mobile terminal 2, and at least one fixed station (not shown) placed on the ground constitute a system for executing the video information distribution method according to this first embodiment. Further, as examples of mobile objects, there are a motorcar, a train, a ship, an airplane, etc. In this first embodiment, a motorcar is taken as an example.

[0116] The above-mentioned video information is composed of data including at least image information. Video data, data files, and the like are included in the video information. The video data is composed of image information and speech information, and the video data includes video data comprising still pictures used for distribution of teletext or live view and video data comprising moving pictures used for distribution of video programs. Further, the data files include map data, Web data, home page, mail, and the like. This first embodiment will be described taking, as an example, video information comprising road map data (hereinafter referred to simply as a road map), residence map data (hereinafter referred to simply as a residence map), and a still picture such as a video of an intersection which is a live view. The road map and the residence map may be either video image data or digital data which represents a sentence relating to the map, such as link information.

[0117] Further, as for a communication line from the mobile terminal 2 to the central station 1, any radio communication line may be used as long as it is capable of data communication. In this first embodiment, a portable telephone line is employed.

[0118] On the other hand, as for a method of distributing video information from the central station 1 to the mobile terminal 2, any method may be employed as long as it employs radio communication capable of digital data communication. In this first embodiment, a distribution method according to an ordinary TV broadcasting system which radiates a radio wave to space for distribution of video information to the terminal, is employed. Accordingly, a transmission antenna 9 or the central station 1 is placed in a high ground, such as the top of a mountain or the rooftop of a tall building. Hence, the receiving environment of the mobile terminal varies due to multi-pass phasing or ghost which occurs depending on the area where the motorcar equipped with the mobile terminal runs. Or, the mobile terminal cannot receive the radio wave when the motorcar is in a tunnel.

[0119] The central station 1 comprises a receiving antenna 3, a central station side receiving means 4, an accounting status accumulation means 6, a video information storage means 7, a transmission antenna 9, a central station side

transmission means 8, and a central station side communication control means 5.

[0120] The receiving antenna 3 receives a communication signal transmitted from the mobile terminal 2 through the portable telephone line. The central station side receiving means 4 demodulates and decodes the communication signal received by the antenna 3 and takes a request, read right information, and accounting information from the communication signal. The accounting status accumulation means 6 accumulates the accounting status of the distributed video information. The video information storage means 7 stores plural pieces of video information to be distributed to the mobile terminal 2. The central station side transmission means 8 encodes and compresses the received video information, packetizes (multiplexes) the coded and compressed information to obtain a digital communication signal, modulates a carrier with the digital communication signal to superpose the digital communication signal on the carrier to obtain a transmission signal, and transmits the transmission signal on a TV wave from the transmission antenna 9 to the mobile terminal 2. The central station side communication control means 5 takes video information corresponding to the request received by the central station side receiving means 4, from the video information storage means 7, to output the video information. Further, the communication control means 5 performs data processing and communication control.

[0121] In the central station side transmission means 8, the video information is encoded, compressed, and packetized according to, for example, a coding method based on MPEG2. The central station side transmission means 8 performs modulation according to, for example, 64 QAM (quadrature amplitude shift keying) modulation method.

[0122] Further, the central station side communication control means 5 adds a decryption key to the video information obtained from the video information storage means 7, which key enables the mobile terminal to read the video information. Further, the communication control means 5 applies a guard to the video information by using software, before transmitting the video information to the central station side transmission means 8. Furthermore, the communication control means 5 performs accounting on the distributed video signal. This accounting is performed by an accounting control means 51 included in the central station side communication control means 5, and the accounting status accumulation means 6.

[0123] The central station side communication control means 5 is implemented by, for example, a CPU (central processing unit) of a computer, the accounting status accumulation means 6 is implemented by a main memory of the computer, and the video information storage means 7 is implemented by an information recording medium such as a hard disk and an information recording medium driving means such as a hard disk drive.

[0124] On the other hand, the mobile terminal 2 comprises a receiving antenna 10, a mobile terminal side receiving means 11, a TS separation means 12, a data reproduction means 13, an input/output means 14, a transmission antenna 18, a mobile terminal side transmission means 17, and a mobile terminal side communication control means 15.

[0125] The receiving antenna 10 receives a transmission signal transmitted on a TV wave from the central station 1. The mobile terminal side receiving means 11 demodulates the transmission signal received by the receiving antenna 10 to obtain a digital communication signal, detects receiving result information (described later) such as a receiving error ratio, from the digital communication signal, and takes the decryption key from the digital communication signal. The TS separation means 12 separates the digital communication signal obtained in the mobile terminal side receiving means 11, and takes the coded and compressed video information from the digital communication signal. The data reproduction means 13 decodes and decompresses the coded and compressed video information obtained in the TS separation means 12 to reproduce the original video information. The input/output means 14 has an image display means, a speech output means, and an input means to which a request is input (these means are not shown in the figure). The input/output means 14 displays the image information included in the video information reproduced by the data reproduction means 13, as an image, on a screen of the image display means, and outputs the speech information as a speech from the speech output means. The mobile terminal side transmission means 17 encodes and modulates the received information to obtain a communication signal, and transmits the communication signal to the central station 1 through the transmission antenna 18 and the portable telephone line. The mobile terminal side communication control means 15 transmits the receiver attribute information, the read right information, and the receiving result information, as accounting information, to the mobile terminal side transmission means 17, together with the request input through the input/output means 14. Further, the communication control means 15 allows the TS separation means 12 to separate the requested video information in accordance with the decryption key output from the mobile terminal side receiving means 11, and allows the data reproduction means 13 to remove the guard from the video information so that the video information can be reproduced. The TS separation means 12, the data reproduction means 13, and the input/output means 14 constructs the reproduction means 19.

[0126] In the input/output means 14, for example, the image display means is a liquid crystal display, the input means is a structure capable of inputting character information or user's instruction by using an input pen through an input image displayed on the liquid crystal display, and the speech output means is a speaker.

[0127] Further, the mobile terminal side communication control means 15 is implemented by a CPU of a microcomputer and contains an internal memory (not shown) which is implemented by a main memory of the microcomputer. The

internal memory constitutes a storage means for temporarily storing the receiving error ratio detected by the mobile terminal side receiving means 11.

[0128] Figure 2 shows a data format of a digital communication signal which is encoded, compressed, and packetized by the central station side transmission means 8. As shown in figure 2, the data format of the digital communication signal is composed of a header section at the beginning, a decryption key which follows the header section, and a data section which follows the decryption key. The data section has a hierarchical structure in which data are hierarchized into multiple (triple in this embodiment) layer data.

[0129] The data section is composed of an arbitrary number of layer data. In this first embodiment, as shown in figure 2, it is composed of three pieces of layer data. One layer data corresponds to one file of video information, and each layer data is composed of a data header placed at the beginning (including class definition section), and data such as video and audio which follows the data header. Further, each layer data is subjected to a guard by software. The data header is composed of data for specifying the position of the video and audio data, a parameter for decompressing the video and audio data, a rank ID specifying the hierarchical rank of the video and audio data, etc.

[0130] The header section is composed of an authentication ID for collation with the mobile terminal, file numbers, data for specifying the file positions, the kinds of layer data in the data section, the hierarchical ranks of the layer data, control data, etc. However, it is not always necessary for the header section to have all of these data. The header section may be appropriately composed according to the use or the like. As an authentication ID, for example, an ID or a password of the user of the mobile terminal is employed.

[0131] The decryption key is composed of information indicating how many layer data are to be taken starting from the first layer data, and information for removing the guard of the layer data by software.

[0132] Figure 3 shows another data format of the digital communication signal. In the digital communication signal (video information) shown in figure 3, three pieces of layer data (figure 3(b)) are united as package data (figure 3(a)). As shown in figure 3(a), the data format of the video information in one package data is composed of a header section, a decryption key, a class definition section, and a data section. The header section, the decryption key, and the data section have similar structures as those of the data format shown in figure 2. On the other hand, the class definition section is composed of the rank IDs or rank names of the hierarchical ranks of the data sections in the respective layer data shown in figure 3(b). The rank ID indicates that the layer data is the uppermost layer data, the intermediate layer data, or the lowermost layer data. The rank name is given like "uppermost", "intermediate", or "lowermost".

[0133] A predetermined number of files of video information to be converted to the data format having the hierarchical structure comprising a predetermined number of layer data are previously stored in a set in the video information storage means 7.

[0134] In this first embodiment, as a set of video information mentioned above, still picture cap information M30 comprising a set of a road map M31, a residence map M32, and a video of an intersection M33 (see figures 4(a) and 4(b)) is stored in the video information storage means 7. Figure 4(a) shows the respective maps M31, M32, and M33 such that the scales thereof are clarified, and these maps M31, M32, and M33 are of the same display size as shown in figure 4(b). The video information of the respective files (i.e., the road map M31, the residence map M32, and the intersection video M33) is read from the video information storage means 7 under control of the central station side communication control means 5, and is given a decryption key. Thereafter, in the central station side transmission means 8, the respective files of the road map M31, the residence map M32, and the intersection video M33 are converted into the data format shown in figure 2 or 3 such that the respective files construct the package data indicated by ①, ②, ③.

[0135] Next, designation of the hierarchical rank of the video information will be described.

[0136] Figure 5 shows hierarchical information for designating the hierarchical rank. As shown in figure 5, the hierarchical information is composed of, for example, an information ID number and layer symbols A, B, C, ... corresponding to the information ID. When receiving a request from the user, a decryption key is sent to the user, and the user accesses data according to the decryption key. At this time, an access key is generated as follows so that an access can be made to a predetermined layer using the key sent to the user.

access key = F (information ID number, accessible layer)

wherein F is a function to generate the key, and this is a function of the information ID and the accessible layer. The data of the accessible layer can be created by obtaining a binary number on condition that an accessible layer is 1 and an inaccessible layer is 0.

[0137] The operation of designating the hierarchical rank will be described in brief. Initially, when receiving a request from the user, an access key is sent to the user, by encryption according to the following multiplication.

access key = (information ID number) × (accessible layer)

[0138] Then, the data, whose information ID number and layer symbol are clarified, is transmitted by using the central

station side transmission means shown in figure 1. The user obtains the accessible layer by performing the following division, from the data transmitted, according to the access key.

accessible layer = access key/information ID number

5

(accessible layer = F-1 (information ID number, access key))

[0139] Through the above-mentioned process, the user can know which layer is receivable, from the data transmitted.

10 [0140] Further, authentication is needed when making an access such as a request from the terminal to the central station. When accessing from a mobile object such as a motorcar, authentication must be performed by a simple operation. As a method of authentication, for example, the terminal ID and the password are automatically sent to the central station 1 for authentication. Or, when an access from a telephone number which has been recorded in advance agrees with the terminal ID, the access is identified as an access from a specific user.

15 [0141] Figure 6 is a block diagram illustrating the accounting control means 51 and the accounting status accumulating means 6. As shown in figure 6, the accounting control means 51 comprises a received data sorting means 20, a receiving status decision means 21, and an accounting means 22.

[0142] The received data sorting means 20 receives request information and accounting information from the mobile terminal, and sorts them to extract the accounting data.

20 [0143] The receiving status decision means 21 analyzes the accounting information extracted by the sorting means 20 to decide the receiving status for each data. The accounting information includes receiver attribute information (information as to whether this terminal is a mobile terminal or a fixed terminal), receiving result information (received information number, received file name, normal receiving information in video information reception, error generating status in video information reception, receiving error rate), process instruction information indicating a process instructed by the user to the receiving result (retry or cancel of data transmission), etc.

25 [0144] The accounting means 22 performs accounting based on the accounting information. The feature of this accounting is not to perform accounting when a receiving error occurs, or to reduce the charge according to the accounting rate.

[0145] On the other hand, the accounting status accumulating means 6 comprises a program accounting data base 23, an accounting rate table 24, and a receiving status management table 25, as shown in figure 6.

30 [0146] Figures 7(a) - 7(c) are diagrams illustrating the detailed structures of the program accounting data base 23, the accounting rate table 24, and the receiving status management table 25.

[0147] With reference to figure 7(b), the following data are entered in the accounting rate table 24: number of data (file) included for each program/information number, file information such as a required file name, information charge for each file information, and an accounting rate. The accounting rate is a rate at which accounting is changed or reduced according to the status of receiving error, and 100% (i.e., the full amount of the information charge) is charged when no receiving error has occurred. On the other hand, when a receiving error has occurred, accounting is performed as follows. That is, the information charge is reduced by multiplying the charge with 70%, 50%, ... in accordance with the receiving error rate, such as average error rate, average packet error rate, number of error packets, or continuous packet error. Or, when the receiving error rate is higher than a predetermined rate, the distributed video information is free of charge. Further, although the accounting rate is especially effective to a moving picture, it is also applicable to a file containing data which are available even if some error occurs, such as an image bit map or audio data, and also in this case, efficient accounting can be carried out.

35 [0148] With reference to figure 7(c), the receiving status management table 25 is used for confirming the status such as the requested video information or pay-per-view. The following data are entered in the receiving status management table 25: user ID (terminal ID), request information (program) No. of video information requested by the mobile terminal, receiving status of the requested data, and transmission status of the requested data. The request information No. is created by copying the file information from the accounting rate table 24 in accordance with the request. As the receiving status, information as to whether data is normally received for each request information No. (file name) or a receiving error occurs, is entered. As the transmission status, information such as "receiving completed", "retrying", "retry requested", or "cancel", is entered. In the case of "retrying", information such as the number of times of retry is entered together.

40 [0149] With reference to figure 7(a), the following data are entered in the program accounting data base 23: user ID of mobile terminal (or terminal ID, obtained data (file, receiving result, accounting rate, end charge. These data are created in the stage where the accounting status is defined. The receiving result includes, for example, completion of normal receive, receiving error rate, or cancel information (distinction between user side and transmission side). With respect to the accounting rate, an accounting rate according to the receiving status is created with reference to the accounting rate table of figure 7(b).

55 [0150] A description is now given of the operations of the central station 1 and the mobile terminal 2 constructed as

described above.

[0151] The video information storage means 7 stores, as the map information M30 shown in figure 4, a road map M31 drawn on a scale of 1 to 25000 (hereinafter referred to as 1/25000 road map), a residence map M32, and a video of an intersection M33 (live view). The user of the mobile terminal 2 requests distribution of the 1/25000 road map M31 as the first request, and requests distribution of the residence map M32 as the second request.

[0152] With reference to figure 1, initially, in the mobile terminal 2, the user inputs a request for distribution of the 1/25000 road map M31 through the input/output means 14.

[0153] On receipt of this, the mobile terminal side communication control means 15 checks as to whether receiving result information to be accounting information is stored in the internal memory or not. Since this is the first request, no receiving result information is stored in the internal memory. So, the communication control means 15 sends the input request, information indicating that this terminal is a mobile terminal (as the accounting information and the receiver attribute information) and an authentication key (as the read right information), to the mobile terminal side transmission means 17. In this embodiment, since the request is transmitted from the mobile terminal 2 through the telephone line, telephone number notification, which is easy to be authenticated, is utilized as an authentication key. Alternatively, as an authentication key, any of a passnumber, a password, an address code and the like can be used.

[0154] On receipt of the data from the communication control means 15, the mobile terminal side transmission means 17 encodes/modulates the request, the read right information, and the accounting information to generate a communication signal, and sends the communication signal through the antenna 18 and the portable telephone line to the central station 1.

[0155] The communication signal so transmitted is received by the receiving antenna 3 of the central station 1, and the received signal is input to the central station side receiving means 4.

[0156] On receipt of the communication signal, the central station 1 performs the following process to distribute video information to the mobile terminal which has output the request (hereinafter, this process is referred to as "conditional access")

[0157] On receipt of the request from the mobile terminal 2, the central station side receiving means 4 demodulates and decodes the communication signal to take the request information, the read right information, and the accounting information, and sends them to the central station side communication control means 5.

[0158] On receipt of the data from the central station side receiving means 4, the central station side communication control means 5 performs authentication by using the authentication key as the read right information. This authentication is a process to specify which mobile terminal has output the request. When the authentication has been completed, the communication control means 5 obtains the map information M30 from the video information storage means 7 in accordance with the request information. Further, according to the read right information, the communication control means 5 adds a decryption key and an error correcting code to the map information M30 to be sent to the central station side transmission means 8. The decryption key includes information about how many layer data of the map information 30 can be taken starting from the first layer data, and information for removing the guard protected by software, from each of the files composing the layer data (in this case, information for removing the guard from the 1/25000 road information M31). The error detecting code enables the mobile terminal 2 to detect the receiving result information such as the receiving error rate.

[0159] On receipt of the video information M30 of the 1/25000 road map M31, the central station side transmission means 8 encodes, compresses, and packetizes the video information of the 1/25000 road map M31 in accordance with the MPEG 2 coding method to generate a digital communication signal. Next, the transmission means 8 modulates the digital communication signal by the 64 QAM modulation method to generate a transmission signal, and outputs the transmission signal through the transmission antenna 9, on a TV wave, to the mobile terminal 2.

[0160] The receiving antenna 10 of the mobile terminal 2 receives the transmission signal transmitted on the TV wave, and sends this signal to the mobile terminal side receiving means 11.

[0161] On receipt of the transmission signal, the receiving means 11 demodulates this signal to take the digital communication signal, and sends this signal to the TS separation means 12. Further, the receiving means 11 detects the receiving result information such as the receiving error rate or the information as to whether the transmission signal has been normally received or not, from the communication signal so obtained, in accordance with the error correcting code included in the communication signal, and takes the decryption key from the communication signal. The receiving result information and the decryption key are sent to the mobile terminal side communication control means 15. On receipt of the output from the receiving means 11, the mobile terminal side communication control means 15 stores the receiving result information in the internal memory. Further, the communication control means 15 extracts, from the decryption key, the information about how many layer data are to be taken starting from the first layer data, and the information for removing the guard from the file of the layer data, and outputs the former to the TS separation means 12 and the latter to the data reproduction means 13.

[0162] On receipt of the output from the communication control means 15, the TS separation means 12 separates the digital communication signal in accordance with the information about how many layer data are to be taken starting from

the first layer data, supplied from the mobile terminal side communication control means 15, and takes the 1/25000 road map M31 from the coded and compressed map information M30 to send this road map M31 to the data reproduction means 13.

[0163] On receipt of the output from the TS separation means 12, the data reproduction means 13 removes the guard from the 1/25000 road map M31 in accordance with the information for removing the guard from the file of the layer data, and decodes and decompresses the video information of the coded and compressed 1/25000 road map M31 to reproduce the original video image of the 1/25000 road map M31. The video information of the 1/25000 road map M31 so reproduced is sent to the input/output means 14. At this time, the data reproduction means 13 and the mobile terminal side communication control means 15 perform error correction based on the error correcting code.

[0164] On receipt of the video information of the 1/25000 road map M31, the input/output means 14 displays, as an image, the image information of the 1/25000 road map M31 on the liquid crystal panel, and outputs, as a speech, the speech information from the speaker. Thereby, the user can view the video information of the 1/25000 road map M31 for which the user has requested.

[0165] Next, a description will be given of the case where the user makes the second request.

[0166] In this case, in the mobile terminal 2, the user inputs a request for distribution of the residence map M32 in the input/output means 14. If the receiving status of the 1/25000 road map M31 is not satisfactory, the user requests a retry of sending the road map M31 or cancels the distribution of the road map M31, by using the input/output means 14.

[0167] On receipt of the input from the user, the mobile terminal side communication means 15 sends, as accounting information, the receiving result information stored in the internal memory and the information indicating that this terminal is a mobile terminal, together with the input request, to the mobile terminal side transmission means 17. When the above-described "retry" or "cancel" is input, this is sent to the central station 1 as process instruction information instead of the request.

[0168] The request and the accounting information are output from the mobile terminal 2 to reach the communication control means 5 of the central station 1, in the same manner as described for the first request.

[0169] Next, a description will be given of accounting on the video information distributed in response to the first request. In the above description, the accounting information is transmitted at the time of sending the next (second) request. However, the mobile terminal side communication control means 15 and the mobile terminal side transmission control means 17 may be constructed so that only the accounting information is sent to the central station 1 separately from the request when a predetermined period of time has passed after receiving the video information distributed. Also in this case, accounting will be carried out in the same manner as an accounting process described hereinafter.

[0170] This accounting process is executed between the accounting control means 51 included in the communication control means 5 of the central station 1 and the accounting status accumulating means 6 connected with the central station side communication control means 5.

[0171] Figure 8 is a flowchart showing the procedure of the accounting process by the accounting means 22.

[0172] In this accounting process, initially, the receiving data sorting means 20 shown in figure 6 sorts the accounting information transmitted from the mobile terminal 2 together with the request information to extract only the accounting information (step S11), and the receiving status decision means 21 shown in figure 6 analyzes the extracted accounting information to decide the receiving status of each data and create the receiving status management table shown in figure 7(c) (step S12).

[0173] Then, data to be processed is picked up with reference to the data of the receiving status obtained by the receiving status decision means 21, to be subjected to the following process.

[0174] Initially, in step S13, it is decided whether some receiving error occurs or not. When the decision is that no receiving error occurs, the control goes to the next step S14.

[0175] In step S14, accounting is decided in an accounting decision process (1) described hereinafter. To be specific, in this accounting decision process (1), the program accounting data base shown in figure 7(a) is written when all the required files are set. The request information No. of the user ID is retrieved from the receiving status management table shown in figure 7(c), and a flag indicating "file has been received" is set in a file corresponding to the item showing the receiving status. In this case, the accounting rate is 100%. When the receiving status corresponding to the request information No. is checked, if all the files have been normally received, the program accounting data base shown in figure 7(a) is retrieved. When this program accounting data base does not exist, a new data base is created to record accounting information therein. When the program accounting data base exists already, the data are updated for normal accounting.

[0176] On the other hand, when it is decided in step S13 that a receiving error occurs, the control proceeds to step S15.

[0177] In step S15, it is decided whether the distributed video information is a video such as an image or a speech, or data. That is, video information such as an image or a speech is sometimes valuable even if it is not satisfactorily received. When the distributed video information is decided as a video in step S15, the control proceeds to step S16.

[0178] In step S16, for example, reduction of the information charge is carried out. In this step, as an accounting deci-

sion process (2), initially, the request information No. and the receiving status are checked with reference to the receiving status on the receiving status management table shown in figure 7(c). Next, with reference to the accounting rate according to the information No. on the accounting rate table shown in figure 7(b), an accounting rate according to the receiving error recorded in the receiving status management table is obtained. Then, these accounting data are recorded in the program accounting data base shown in figure 7(a). In this case, as the receiving result, "partial receiving" (received data includes some error and so is not completed, but is available) is recorded, together with the accounting rate and the charge. The program accounting data base can be rewritten when all the requested data are set.

[0179] In step S15, when the distributed video information is data (with some receiving error), the control proceeds to step S17.

[0180] In step S17, it is decided whether a request for cancel exists or not. When a request for cancel exists in step S17, the control proceeds to an accounting cancel process in step S20. When no request for cancel exists, the control proceeds to a retry process in step S18.

[0181] In step S18, it is decided whether a request for retry exists or not. When a request for retry exists, the receiving error status or the number of times of retry is referred to. When there are unusual amount of receiving errors or retry has reached a defined number of times, the control proceeds to the accounting cancel process in step S20.

[0182] On the other hand, when there is no request for retry in step S18, the control proceeds to an accounting decision process in step S19.

[0183] In step S19, the accounting decision process is performed as follows. Initially, the receiving status management table shown in figure 7(c) is checked to see the request information No. of the corresponding user ID and the receiving status, and further the accounting rate is checked on the accounting rate table shown in figure 7(b). When accounting is possible in spite of "partial receiving", i.e., when specified files in the request information are set, the program accounting data base shown in figure 7(a) is created or updated.

[0184] In the accounting cancel process of step S20, accounting is canceled when retry has exceeded a defined number of times or when the user's receiving status is considerable bad. The accounting cancel is performed as follows. The reason for cancel is written in the receiving result in the program accounting data base shown in figure 7(a), and the accounting rate is set to 0 and, simultaneously, the data relating to the item to be canceled is deleted from the receiving status management table shown in figure 7(c).

[0185] When accounting on the video information distributed from the central station 1 has been completed and the program accounting data base has been created or updated by any of steps S14, S16 and S19, exact calculation for the accounting is carried out.

[0186] As a manner of deciding a reduction in the accounting rate, for example, accounting rate may be reduced significantly for errors in such nature that packet errors occur continuously.

[0187] Further, when up link of the accounting information from the mobile terminal is not satisfactory, accounting may be performed on the premise that the accounting information has been normally received.

[0188] Further, when the mobile object is, for example, a motorcar, it may be equipped with a system having a fixed power supply so that the mobile terminal can send accounting information even when the engine is stopped and the main power supply is tuned off. Or, a motorcar or a mobile terminal may be equipped with a function to give the user warning by alarm or the like when the engine is stopped or the main power supply is turned off.

[0189] Further, the central station 1 may transmit the data of the program accounting database, the accounting rate table, and the receiving status management table to the mobile terminal 2 supplied with the video information, by using the transmission means. Thereby, the user can confirm the accounting status as desired.

[0190] After the above-described accounting process, exact calculation for the video distribution charge is performed as follows. The user of each mobile terminal has previously transferred a fixed charge to the central station through a bank or the like, and the central station calculates the video distribution charge in accordance with the above-described program accounting data base. Or, the central station collects the video distribution charge from the bank account of the user of each mobile terminal.

[0191] As described above, in the method of distributing video information to a mobile object by digital radio communication, since accounting on distributed video information in the central station 1 is performed in accordance with the accounting information supplied from the mobile terminal 2 which has output the request for the video information, accounting is performed only when the video information has been normally received by the mobile terminal 2, or appropriate accounting based on the receiving error rate of the video information is performed.

[0192] While in this first embodiment distribution of one video information is requested at one time (one request), two or more pieces of video information may be requested at one time. Also in this case, the requested video information is captured as the respective files of the layer data shown in figures 2 and 3 and the same processes as mentioned above are carried out.

[0193] Furthermore, while in this first embodiment a modulator based on 64 QAM modulation is used in the central station side transmission means 8 or the mobile terminal side receiving means 11, the modulator is not restricted thereto. For example, a modulator based on QPSK modulation may be used.

[0194] Figure 9 is a block diagram illustrating the structures of a central station and a mobile terminal used for a method of distributing video information to a mobile object by digital radio communication, according to a modification of the first embodiment. According to this modification, in the mobile terminal 2, there is no signal line connecting the mobile terminal side receiving means 11 directly to the mobile terminal side communication control means 15. Therefore, the receiving error rate detected by the receiving means 11 is transmitted through the TS separation means 12 and the data reproduction means 13 to the communication control means 15. Other components and operations thereof are identical to those already described above.

Embodiment 2.

[0195] Figure 10 is a block diagram illustrating structures of a central station unit and a mobile terminal unit which are used in a method for distributing video information to a mobile object by digital radio communication according to a second embodiment of the invention.

[0196] In figure 10, reference numeral 1 designates a central station unit placed on the ground (hereinafter referred to simply as a central station), and numeral 2 designates a mobile terminal unit mounted on a mobile object (hereinafter referred to simply as a mobile terminal). The central station 1, at least one mobile terminal 2, and at least one fixed station (not shown) placed on the ground constitute a system for executing the video information distribution method according to this second embodiment. Further, as examples of mobile objects, there are a motorcar, a train, a ship, an airplane, etc. In this second embodiment, a motorcar is taken as an example.

[0197] The above-mentioned video information is composed of data including at least image information. Video data, data files, and the like are included in the video information. The video data is composed of image information and speech information, and the video data includes video data comprising still pictures used for distribution of teletext or live view and video data comprising moving pictures used for distribution of video programs. Further, the data files include map data, Web data, home page, mail, and the like. This second embodiment will be described taking, as an example, video information comprising road map data (hereinafter referred to simply as a road map), residence map data (hereinafter referred to simply as a residence map), and a still picture such as a video of an intersection which is a live view. The road map and the residence map may be either video image data or digital data which represents a sentence relating to the map, such as link information.

[0198] Further, as for a communication line from the mobile terminal 2 to the central station 1, any radio communication line may be used as long as it is capable of data communication. In this second embodiment, a portable telephone line is employed.

[0199] On the other hand, as for a method of distributing video information from the central station 1 to the mobile terminal 2, any method may be employed as long as it employs radio communication capable of digital data communication. In this second embodiment, a distribution method according to an ordinary TV broadcasting system which radiates a radio wave to space for distribution of video information to the terminal, is employed. Accordingly, a transmission antenna 9 of the central station 1 is placed in a high ground, such as the top of a mountain or the rooftop of a tall building. Hence, the receiving environment of the mobile terminal varies due to multi-pass phasing or ghost which occurs depending on the area where the motorcar equipped with the mobile terminal runs. Or, the mobile terminal cannot receive the radio wave when the motorcar is in a tunnel.

[0200] The central station 1 comprises a receiving antenna 3, a central station side receiving means 4, an accounting environment information accumulation means 26, a video information storage means 7, a transmission antenna 9, a central station side transmission means 8, and a central station side communication control means 5.

[0201] The receiving antenna 3 receives a communication signal transmitted from the mobile terminal 2 through the portable telephone line. The central station side receiving means 4 demodulates and decodes the communication signal received by the antenna 3 and takes a request, read right information, and accounting information from the communication signal. The accounting environment information accumulation means 26 accumulates the accounting environment information. The video information storage means 7 stores plural pieces of video information to be distributed to the mobile terminal 2. The central station side transmission means 8 encodes and compresses the received video information, packetizes (multiplexes) the coded and compressed information to obtain a digital communication signal, modulates a carrier with the digital communication signal to superpose the digital communication signal on the carrier to obtain a transmission signal, and transmits the transmission signal on a TV wave from the transmission antenna 9 to the mobile terminal 2. The central station side communication control means 5 takes video information corresponding to the request received by the central station side receiving means 4, from the video information storage means 7, to output the video information. Further, the communication control means 5 stores the receiving environment information taken by the receiving means 4 in the receiving environment information storage means 26. Based on the receiving environment information taken by the receiving means 4 or the receiving environment information obtained from the receiving environment accumulation means 26, the communication control means 5 switches the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors of the video information to be transmitted to the mobile terminal

2, by using the central station side transmission means 8.

[0202] In the central station side transmission means 8, coding and compression of video information is performed according to, for example, a coding method based on MPEG2.

[0203] Further, the central station side transmission means 8 includes the following two modulators: a modulator which modulates data by 64 QAM (quadrature amplitude shift keying) modulation, and a modulator which modulates data by QPSK (quadrature phase shift keying) modulation. The transmission means 8 selects one of the above-mentioned two modulators according to an instruction from the communication control means 5 to connect the modulator with the transmission circuit, whereby the received video information can be modulated by one of the above-mentioned two modulation methods. With respect to the 64 QAM modulation, although its transmission capacity is relatively large, it is not resistive against occurrence of code errors in the transmission path. On the other hand, with respect to the QPSK modulation, although its transmission capacity is relatively small, it is resistive to occurrence of code errors in the transmission path and, especially, ghost and multi-pass phasing hardly occur in the QPSK modulation.

[0204] Further, the central station side communication control means 5 sets the redundancy of transmission data including video information in three grades, adds an error correcting code of a bit width according to the redundancy of each grade to the video information obtained from the video information storage means 7, and outputs the video information to the transmission means 8.

[0205] For example, the central station side communication control means 5 is implemented by a CPU (central processing unit) of a computer, the accounting environment information accumulation means 26 is implemented by a main memory of the computer, and the video information storage means 7 is implemented by an information recording medium such as a hard disk and an information recording medium driving means such as a hard disk drive.

[0206] The mobile terminal 2 comprises a receiving antenna 10, a mobile terminal side receiving means 11, a TS separation means 12, a data reproduction means 13, an input/output means 14, a transmission antenna 18, a mobile terminal side transmission means 17, and a mobile terminal side communication control means 15.

[0207] The receiving antenna 10 receives a transmission signal transmitted on a TV wave from the central station 1. The mobile terminal side receiving means 11 demodulates the transmission signal received by the receiving antenna 10 to obtain a digital communication signal, and detects a code error rate (hereinafter referred to as receiving error rate) of the digital communication signal. The TS separation means 12 separates the digital communication signal obtained in the mobile terminal side receiving means 11, and takes the coded and compressed video information from the digital communication signal. The data reproduction means 13 decodes and decompresses the coded and compressed video information obtained in the TS separation means 12 to reproduce the original video information, and extracts the error correcting codes from the coded and compressed video information. The input/output means 14 has an image display means, a speech output means, and an input means to which a request is input (these means are not shown in the figure). The input/output means 14 displays the image information included in the video information reproduced by the data reproduction means 13, as an image, on a screen of the image display means, and outputs the speech information as a speech from the speech output means. The mobile terminal side transmission means 17 encodes and modulates the received information to obtain a communication signal, and transmits the communication signal to the central station 1 through the transmission antenna 18 and the portable telephone line. The mobile terminal side communication control means 15 transmits information indicating that this terminal is a mobile terminal and the receiving error rate detected by the receiving means 11, as receiving environment information, to the transmission means 17 together with the request input through the input/output means 14. Further, when reproducing the video information, the communication control means 15 allows the data reproduction means 13 to correct errors of the decoded and decompressed video information, in accordance with the error correcting codes output from the data reproduction means 13. The TS separation means 12, the data reproduction means 13, and the input/output means 14 constructs the reproduction means 19.

[0208] The mobile terminal side receiving means 11 includes the following two demodulators (not shown): a demodulator which demodulates data in accordance with 64 QAM (quadrature amplitude shift keying) modulation, and a demodulator which demodulates data in accordance with QPSK (quadrature phase shift keying) modulation. These demodulators are connected in parallel with the receiving circuit. Accordingly, when a received signal which has been modulated by either the 64 QAM modulation or the QPSK modulation is input to the two demodulators, one of the demodulators which agrees with the modulation method of the input signal operates, i.e., demodulates the input signal and outputs the demodulated signal to the receiving circuit.

[0209] In the input/output means 14, for example, the image display means is a liquid crystal display, the input means is a structure capable of inputting character information or user's instruction by using an input pen through an input image displayed on the liquid crystal display, and the speech output means is a speaker.

[0210] Further, the mobile terminal side communication control means 15 is implemented by a CPU of a microcomputer and contains an internal memory (not shown) which is implemented by a main memory of the microcomputer. The internal memory constitutes a storage means for temporarily storing the receiving error ratio detected by the mobile terminal side receiving means 11.

[0211] Further, the communication control means 15 of the mobile terminal 2 outputs an ID number for receiving distributed video information and accounting information for the distribution of the video information, together with the request, to the communication control means 5 of the central station 1. On receipt of these data, the communication control means 5 performs accounting based on the accounting information, and collates the ID number with recorded mobile terminals. When the result of the collation authenticates that the mobile terminal which has made the request is recorded, the communication control means 5 distributes the requested video information to the mobile terminal 2 after adding a decryption key to the video information. In the mobile terminal 2, the mobile terminal side communication control means 15 decrypts the coded video information by using the decryption key, and allows the TS separation means 12 and the data reproduction means 13 to reproduce the distributed image information in accordance with the result of the decryption. Since the authentication process and the accounting process do not directly relate to ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors according to the invention, these processes are not described.

[0212] Next, a description is given of the structure of means for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors which occur when video information is transmitted.

[0213] Figure 11 illustrates a transmission quality management table used by the control station side communication means, for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors which occur when video information is transmitted.

[0214] In the transmission quality management table, the receiving environment is classified roughly into "fixed terminal" and "mobile terminal". In case of mobile terminal, the receiving error rate is divided into three, i.e., "low", "medium", and "high". Further, the modulation method is "64 QAM modulation" when the receiving environment is "fixed terminal". When the receiving environment is "mobile terminal", the modulation method is "64 QAM modulation", "QPSK modulation", and "QPSK modulation" when the receiving error rate is "low", "medium", and "high", respectively. Further, the data redundancy is "small" when the receiving environment is "fixed terminal". When the receiving environment is "mobile terminal", the data redundancy is "small", "medium", and "large", when the receiving error rate is "low", "medium", and "high", respectively. Further, when the receiving error rate is unknown as in the case where the request from the mobile terminal is the first request, the receiving error rate is treated as "medium". Moreover, the ranges of "low (small)", "medium", and "high (large)" of the receiving error rate and the data redundancy are appropriately set based on an experiment or the like. When there are plural requests from different mobile terminals, a modulation method suitable for the receiving environment of a mobile terminal in the worst receiving environment, is selected. With respect to the redundancy, since the error correcting code for changing the redundancy is added to the distributed video information, the redundancy can be adapted to each mobile terminal, and therefore, a redundancy is selected for each mobile terminal according to its receiving environment. In this second embodiment, the reason why, in order to ensure the transmission quality relating to code errors, it is allowed to increase the data redundancy in spite of reduction in the transmission capacity, is because massive transmission capacity is not necessarily required in the video information distribution system of this second embodiment.

[0215] On receipt of the receiving environment information, the central station side communication control means 5 changes the modulation method and the data redundancy in accordance with the table, thereby ensures the transmission quality relating to code errors when transmitting the video information.

[0216] A description is given of the structure for changing the data redundancy.

[0217] Figure 12 is a block diagram illustrating the structure of part of the central station side communication control means 5, wherein error correcting codes are added to the video information.

[0218] In figure 12, reference numeral 204 denotes a redundancy control unit. The communication control means 5 selects the data redundancy (one of "small", "medium", "large") according to the receiving environment information as described for figure 11, and inputs this redundancy as a data redundancy indication signal to the redundancy control unit 204. Then, the redundancy control unit 204 indicates the length of one of plural data into which the video information is divided (hereinafter referred to as divided data), and an error correcting code to be added to one divided data, according to the data redundancy indicated by the data redundancy indication signal. At this time, the redundancy control unit 204 reduces the length of the divided data or more error correcting codes are added to increase the data redundancy. In this second embodiment, for example, an error correcting code of a larger bit width is added.

[0219] Furthermore, reference numeral 205 denotes a data storage unit for storing data. Numeral 201 denotes a data division unit for dividing the video information obtained from the video information storage means 7 into plural data each having the length indicated by the redundancy control unit 204. Numeral 202 denotes an error correction unit for adding error correcting codes to the divided data obtained in the data division unit 201. Numeral 203 denotes a transmission data generation unit. This unit 203 stores the divided data with the error correcting codes into the storage unit 205, combines a predetermined number of data amongst the divided data in the storage unit 205 according to a predetermined order to generate transmission data, and outputs the transmission data to the central station side transmission means 8.

[0220] Figures 13(a)-13(c) are schematic diagrams for explaining how the data division unit 201 and the error correction unit 202 shown in figure 12 process the input data. Figure 13(a) shows the state where one video information is divided into plural divided data, figure 13(b) shows the state where divided data attribute information is added to one

divided data, and figure 13(c) shows that state where an error correcting code is added to one divided data to which the division data attribute information has already been added.

[0221] With reference to figures 13(a)-13(c), initially, the data division unit 201 divides the video information (file) into a predetermined number of pieces indicated by the redundancy control unit 204. For example, a file A is divided into n pieces of data A1~An. Next, divided data attribute information such as a partition symbol, a file ID, and a division number, is added before each divided data. Since this information is added before each divided data, when the divided data are combined into a data sequence by the transmission data generation unit 203, the partition of each divided data in the data sequence is clear, whereby the divided data can be recomposed when reproducing the video information at the mobile terminal side. Instead of adding the partition symbol at the head of the divided data, a terminal symbol may be added at the end of the divided data.

[0222] Further, the error correction unit 202 adds an error correcting code indicated by the redundancy control unit 204 at the end of the divided data to which the divided data attribute information has been added.

[0223] Then, the divided data so processed are combined by the transmission data generation unit 203. The order in which the divided data are combined is not necessarily the same as the order of in which the file was divided, that is, the divide data may be combined randomly. To combine the divided data randomly is effective for improvement of error correcting ability because, in this case, errors are dispersed in video data such as a still picture or a moving picture. Further, as well as combining divided data, it is also possible to combine files when transmitting a plurality of files. Also in this case, the files can be combined randomly.

[0224] In the mobile terminal 2, the transmission control means 15 and the data reproduction means 13 separate the transmission data into the divided data with the error correcting codes in accordance with the partition symbols, perform error correction, and restore the file in accordance with the file ID and the division number. In this case, even when the partition symbol is lost during the transmission, data reproduction is possible by maintaining the data length after the addition of the error correcting codes constant for a predetermined period of time.

[0225] Next, a description will be given of the operations of the central station 1 and the mobile terminal 2 so constructed, with reference to figures 10 and 11.

[0226] It is assumed that a road map drawn on a scale of 1 to 50000 (1/50000 road map), a road map drawn on a scale of 1 to 25000 (1/25000 road map), a residence map, and a video of an intersection (live view) are stored in the video information storage means 7. The user of the mobile terminal 2 requests distribution of the 1/5000 road map as a first request, distribution of the 1/25000 road map as a second request, distribution of the video of the intersection as a third request, and distribution the residence map as a fourth request.

[0227] With reference to figures 10 and 11, initially, in the mobile terminal 2, the user inputs a request for distribution of the 1/50000 road map by using the input/output means 14.

[0228] On receipt of this input, the mobile terminal side communication control means 15 checks as to whether any receiving error rate is stored in the internal memory or not. Since this is the first request, no receiving error rate is stored in the internal memory. So, the communication control means 15 sends the input request and information indicating that this terminal is a mobile terminal, to the mobile terminal side transmission means 17.

[0229] On receipt of the data from the communication control means 15, the transmission means 17 encodes/modulates the request and the information about that this terminal is a mobile terminal to generate a communication signal, and sends the communication signal through the antenna 18 and the portable telephone line to the central station 1.

[0230] The communication signal so transmitted is received by the receiving antenna 3 of the central station 1, and the received signal is input to the central station side receiving means 4.

[0231] On receipt of the communication signal, the receiving means 4 demodulates and decodes the communication signal to obtain the request and the information about that the terminal is a mobile terminal, and sends these to the communication control means 5.

[0232] On receipt of the output from the receiving means 4, the communication control means 5 stores the information indicating that the terminal is a mobile terminal into the receiving environment accumulation means 26, and obtains the video information of the 1/50000 road map requested by the user from the video information storage means 7. Next, with reference to the transmission quality management table, the communication control means 5 decides that the modulation method should be "QPSK modulation" because the receiving environment of the mobile terminal 2 is "mobile terminal", and decides that the data redundancy should be "medium" because the receiving error rate is unclear. Next, the communication control means 5 adds an error correcting code having a bit width corresponding to the data redundancy "medium" to the video information of the 1/50000 road map to generate transmission data, and sends this transmission data to the transmission means 8. Further, the communication control means 5 outputs an instruction that the modulation method is "QPSK modulation" to the transmission means 8.

[0233] On receipt of the data of the 1/50000 road map and the instruction from the transmission control means 5, the transmission means 8 encodes the data of the 1/50000 road map by a coding method based on MPEG 2 to generate a coded/multiplexed digital communication signal, and modulates the digital communication signal by using a modulator based on QPSK modulation to generate a transmission signal. This communication signal is transmitted through the

transmission antenna 9, or a TV wave, to the mobile terminal 2.

[0234] On receipt of the transmission signal from the central station 1, the mobile terminal side receiving means 11 demodulates the transmission signal to obtain the digital communication signal, and sends this signal to the TS separation means 12. Further, the receiving means 11 detects the receiving error rate from the digital communication signal and outputs this to the communication control means 15. It is assumed that the receiving error rate is "high" because the motorcar equipped with the mobile terminal 2 is now running in an area to which the wave from the central station 1 is hard to reach.

[0235] The communication control means 15 stores the receiving error rate "high" into the internal memory.

[0236] On the other hand, on receipt of the digital communication signal, the TS separation means 12 separates the digital communication signal to obtain the coded and compressed transmission data of the 1/50000 road map, and sends this data to the data reproduction means 13.

[0237] On receipt of the data from the TS separation means 12, the data reproduction means 13 decodes and decompresses the coded and compressed transmission data to obtain the transmission data, and stores this data. On the other hand, the transmission data is sent to the communication control means 15. The communication control means 15 checks the transmission data for code error, and sends error correcting information based on the result of the check to the data reproduction means 13. The data reproduction means 13 reproduces the video information of the original 1/50000 road map from the transmission data after correcting the error according to the error correcting information, and sends the reproduced video information of the 1/50000 road map to the input/output means 14.

[0238] On receipt of the video information, the input/output means 14 displays image information of the 1/50000 road map as an image on the liquid crystal panel, and outputs speech information thereof as a speech from the speaker. Thereby, the user can view the video information of the 1/50000 road map.

[0239] Next, a description is given of the case where the user makes the second request.

[0240] In this case, in the mobile terminal 2, the user inputs a request for distribution of the 1/25000 road map by using the input/output means 14.

[0241] On receipt of this input, the mobile terminal side communication control means 15 checks as to whether any receiving error rate is stored in the internal memory or not, and sends the stored receiving error rate "high" to the transmission means 17, together with the request and the information indicating that this terminal is a mobile terminal.

[0242] The request, the information about that this terminal is a mobile terminal, and the receiving error rate "high" are transmitted from the mobile terminal 2 to the communication control means 15 of the central station 1, in the same manner as already described for the first request.

[0243] On receipt of the request, the information, and the receiving error rate, the central station side communication control means 5 stores the information indicating that the terminal is a mobile terminal and the receiving error rate "high" into the receiving environment accumulation means 26, and obtains the video information of the 1/25000 road map requested by the user from the video information storage means 7. Next, with reference to the transmission quality management table, the communication control means 5 decides that the modulation method should be "QPSK modulation" because the receiving environment of the mobile terminal 2 is "mobile terminal", and decides that the data redundancy should be "large" because the receiving error rate is "high". Next, the communication control means 5 adds an error correcting code having a bit width corresponding to the data redundancy "large" to the video information of the 1/25000 road map to generate transmission data, and sends this transmission data to the transmission means 8. Further, the communication control means 5 outputs an instruction that the modulation method is "QPSK modulation" to the transmission means 8.

[0244] The video information of the 1/25000 road map so transmitted is processed in the same manner as described for the first request, i.e., it is coded and compressed by a coding method based on MPEG2 and modulated by a modulator based on QPSK modulation. Thereafter, the video information of the 1/25000 road map so processed is transmitted, as a transmission signal, from the central station 1 to the receiving means 11 of the mobile terminal 2.

[0245] The mobile terminal side receiving means 11 demodulates the transmission signal by using a decoder based on QPSK modulation to obtain a digital communication signal, and sends this to the TS separation means 12. Further, the receiving means 11 detects the receiving error rate from the digital communication signal and outputs this to the communication control means 15. It is assumed that the motorcar equipped with the mobile terminal 2 is still running in an area to which the wave from the central station 1 is hard to reach, and the receiving error rate is lowered within the range of "high".

[0246] The receiving error rate is stored in the internal memory of the communication control means 15, in the same manner as described for the first request.

[0247] Further, the digital communication signal is subjected to code error correction and then reproduced to the video information of the original 1/25000 road map, in the same manner as described for the first request. The image information of the 1/25000 road map is displayed as an image on the liquid crystal panel of the input/output means, and the speech information is output as a speech from the speaker. Thereby, the user can view the video information of the 1/25000 road map.

[0248] Next, a description is given of the case where the user makes the third request.

[0249] In this case, in the mobile terminal 2, the user inputs a request for distribution of the video of the intersection by using the input/output means 14.

[0250] The request so input is transmitted from the mobile terminal 2 to the central station 1 in the same manner as described for the second request, and the requested video information of the intersection is distributed as a transmission signal from the central station 1 to the receiving means 11 of the mobile terminal 2 in the same manner as described for the second request.

[0251] The mobile terminal side receiving means 11 demodulates the transmission signal obtain a digital communication signal, and sends this to the TS separation means 12. Further, the receiving means 11 detects the receiving error rate from the digital communication signal and outputs this to the communication control means 15. It is assumed that the motorcar equipped with the mobile terminal 2 is now running in an area to which the wave from the central station 1 reaches satisfactorily, and the receiving error rate is "low".

[0252] The receiving error rate is stored in the internal memory of the communication control means 15, in the same manner as described for the second request.

[0253] Further, the digital communication signal is subjected to code error correction and then reproduced to the video information of the original video of the intersection, in the same manner as described for the second request. The image information thereof is displayed as an image on the liquid crystal panel of the input/output means, and the speech information is output as a speech from the speaker. Thereby, the user can view the video information of the video of the intersection.

[0254] Next, a description is given of the case where the user makes the fourth request.

[0255] In this case, in the mobile terminal 2, the user inputs a request for distribution of the residence map by using the input/output means 14.

[0256] On receipt of this input, the mobile terminal side communication control means 15 sends the receiving error rate "low" stored in the internal memory to the transmission means 17, together with the request and the information indicating that this terminal is a mobile terminal.

[0257] The request, the information about that this terminal is a mobile terminal, and the receiving error rate "low" are transmitted from the mobile terminal 2 to the communication control means 15 of the central station 1, in the same manner as already described above.

[0258] On receipt of the request, the information, and the receiving error rate, the central station side communication control means 5 stores the information indicating that the terminal is a mobile terminal and the receiving error rate "low" into the receiving environment accumulation means 26, and obtains the video information of the residence map requested by the user from the video information storage means 7. Next, with reference to the transmission quality management table, the communication control means 5 decides that the modulation method should be "64QAM modulation" and the data redundancy should be "small" because the receiving environment of the mobile terminal 2 is "mobile terminal" and the receiving error rate is "low". Next, the communication control means 5 adds an error correcting code having a bit width corresponding to the data redundancy "small" to the video information of the residence map to generate transmission data, and sends this transmission data to the transmission means 8. Further, the communication control means 5 outputs an instruction that the modulation method is "64QAM modulation" to the transmission means 8.

[0259] The video information of the residence map is distributed from the central station 1 to the mobile terminal 2, and reproduced to the original video information of the residence map to be displayed as an image and output as a speech by the input/output means 14, in the same manner as described above. Thereby, the user can view the video information of the residence map.

[0260] As described above, according to the second embodiment of the present invention, the mobile terminal 2 transmits the receiving environment information to the central station 1 together with the request, and the central station 1 switches the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors in distribution of the requested video information, in accordance with the receiving environment information. Therefore, the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors can be selected according to the receiving environment of the mobile terminal 2, thereby ensuring the transmission quality relating to code errors of the video information distributed to the mobile terminal 2.

[0261] While in this second embodiment distribution of video information from the central station 1 to the mobile terminal 2 is performed by ordinary TV broadcasting, it may be performed by satellite communication broadcasting.

[0262] Further, while in this second embodiment the modulation method is switched between two methods, it may be switched amongst three or more modulation methods.

[0263] Furthermore, while in this second embodiment video information composed of still pictures is employed, video information composed of moving pictures, such as a video program, may be employed.

[0264] Moreover, while in this second embodiment one video information is requested at one time (request), in the case of requesting plural pieces of video information at one time, the central station 1 distribute the plural pieces of

video information in the same manner as described above.

[0265] Further, while in this second embodiment an input screen and an input pen are used to input a request in the input/output means 14 of the mobile terminal 2, a request may be input by means of a voice.

5 Embodiment 3.

[0266] Figure 14 is a block diagram showing a central station unit (central station) and a mobile terminal unit (mobile terminal) for use in a method for distributing video information to a mobile object by a digital radio communication according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

10 [0267] In the figure, reference numerals as those shown in figure 10 denote the same or the corresponding parts. The difference between the second embodiment and the third embodiment is discussed briefly as follows. In this third embodiment, in the mobile terminal 2, the mobile terminal side receiving means 11 does not detect a receiving error rate. Instead, there is provided location information detection means 16 which detects a location of a car (car location) on which the mobile terminal 2 is mounted, a speed of the car (car speed), a planned course of the car, and road infor-
15 mation as receiving environment information. In the central station 1, the central station side communication control means 5 is adapted to perform switching of modulation and data redundancy of video information to be transmitted, according to the receiving environment information.

[0268] The location information detection means 16 includes a car navigation device, for utilizing a car navigation system to obtain the car location, the car speed, the planned course, and the road information. For instance, the location
20 information detection means 16 uses a GPS (global positioning system) satellite to detect the car location, and uses a speed indicator to detect the car speed. The detection means 16 also creates information of the planned course according to the car location and an input by the user, and obtains road information about a road corresponding to the planned course such as traffic congestion information or the existence/non-existence of road construction, from a center of the car navigation system, according to operation by the user.

25 [0269] The mobile terminal side communication control means 15 transmits the car location, the car speed, the planned course, and the road information as the receiving environment information, a request, and information indicating that this terminal is a mobile terminal, to the central station 1, via the mobile terminal side transmission means 17.

[0270] In the central station 1, the central station side communication control means 5 receives the request and the receiving environment information transmitted from the mobile terminal 2 through the receiving antenna 3 and the central station side receiving means 4 and, according to the receiving environment information, performs switching of the modulation and data redundancy of the video information to be transmitted.

[0271] The control means 5 performs this switching with reference to a transmission quality management table shown in figure 15.

[0272] As can be seen from the table shown in figure 15, the receiving environment is classified into the fixed terminal and the mobile terminal. As for the mobile terminal, the existence/non-existence of a tunnel in the planned course is shown as "tunnel"/"no tunnel". When there is "no tunnel" present in the planned course, the car speed "high"/"low" is shown. When the receiving environment is the fixed terminal, like the first embodiment, the modulation is "64QAM" and the data redundancy is "small". When the receiving environment is the mobile terminal and there is a "tunnel" in the planned course, distribution of the requested video information is rejected. When the receiving environment is the
40 mobile terminal, there is "no tunnel" in the planned course, and the car speed is "high", the modulation is 64QAM and the data redundancy is "small". When the receiving environment is the mobile terminal, there is "no tunnel" in the planned course, and the car speed is "low", the modulation is QPSK and the data redundancy is "medium".

[0273] For instance, in a case where there is a tunnel in the planned course, receiving the receiving environment information, the control means 5 decides that the mobile terminal 2 will be almost around the tunnel at time when requested
45 video information is to be distributed, according to the car speed and the information of the existence/non-existence of road construction or traffic congestion obtained from the road information, and thereby handles the receiving environment as "tunnel", or otherwise, it handles the receiving environment as "no tunnel".

[0274] Operations of the central station 1 and the mobile terminal 2 after transmission of the requested video information are identical to those shown in the second embodiment.

50 [0275] Thus, in accordance with the third embodiment, the mobile terminal 2 detects the car speed of the car on which the mobile terminal 2 is mounted, and transmits this car speed to the central station 1 as the receiving environment information. Since the receiving error rate varies according to the speed of the car, it is possible to select the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error according to the car speed, and thereby reliably ensure the transmission quality relating to the code error of the video information to be distributed to the mobile terminal 2.

55 [0276] In addition, in accordance with the third embodiment, the mobile terminal 2 uses the car navigation to generate the planned course information of the car on which the mobile terminal 2 is mounted, and transmits this planned course information to the central station 1 as the receiving environment information. Hence, depending upon where or not there is a tunnel and the like in the planned course, it is possible to select the method for ensuring the transmission quality

relating to the code error, and thereby reliably ensure the transmission quality relating to the code error of the video information to be distributed to the mobile terminal 2.

Embodiment 4.

[0277] Figure 16 is a block diagram showing a central station unit and a mobile terminal unit for use in a method for distributing video information to a mobile object by a digital radio communication according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

[0278] In the figure, reference numerals as those shown in figure 10 denote the same or the corresponding parts. The difference between the second embodiment and the fourth embodiment is discussed briefly as follows. In this fourth embodiment, in the mobile terminal 2, there is provided location information detection means 16 for detecting a car location of the mobile terminal 2 as receiving environment information, while in the central station 1, the central station side communication control means 5 is adapted to create a map showing a receiving environment of a broadcasting area by using the car location and the receiving error rate, and perform switching of modulation and data redundancy of video information to-be-transmitted according to the created map.

[0279] The location information detection means 16 includes a car navigation device for utilizing the car navigation system to obtain the car location.

[0280] The mobile terminal side communication control means 15 transmits information indicating that this terminal is a mobile terminal, the receiving error rate, and the car location as the receiving environment information together with a request, to the central station 1, via the mobile terminal side transmission means 17.

[0281] In the central station 1, the central station side communication control means 5 receives the request and the receiving environment information transmitted from the mobile terminal 2, via the receiving antenna 3 and the central station side receiving means 4 and stores the receiving environment information in the receiving environment information accumulation means 26. In this case, the control means 5 estimates the location of the mobile terminal 2 which will receive the video information requested by itself, from the location of the mobile terminal 2 detected every time it makes a request, creates the map showing receiving error rates with respect to locations in the broadcasting area in such a way that the estimated location corresponds to the receiving error rate at the receiving of the requested video information, and stores tile map in the receiving environment information accumulation means 26. Receiving the request, the car location, and the receiving error rate, the control means 5 reads the map from the accumulation means 26, corrects the map according to the received car location and receiving error rate, and updates the map stored in the accumulation means 26 into a corrected map.

[0282] Then, the control means 5 performs switching of the modulation and data redundancy according to a transmission quality management table shown in figure 17.

[0283] The table shown in figure 17 differs from that shown in figure 11 only in that predicted receiving error rates have replaced the receiving error rates. Specifically, when transmitting the requested video information to the mobile terminal, the control means 5 predicts the receiving error in the mobile terminal 2 based on the updated map and the received car location, and performs switching to modulation and data redundancy corresponding to the predicted error rate contained in the table shown in figure 17. Operations of the central station 1 and the mobile terminal 2 thereafter are identical to those shown in the first embodiment.

[0284] Thus, in accordance with the fourth embodiment, the mobile terminal 2 detects the receiving error rate in distribution of the video information, and transmits this and the car location as the receiving environment information to the central station 1 when it makes a request, while the central station 1 stores the transmitted car location and receiving error rate as the map showing the receiving environment of the TV broadcasting area, and when the request is made from the mobile station 2, performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error in distribution of the video information to the mobile terminal 2, according to the stored map. Since the receiving error rate in the mobile terminal 2 when the request is made can be predicted according to the map, it is possible to select the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error according to the predicted error rate and thereby reliably ensure the transmission quality relating to of the code error of the video information to be distributed to the mobile terminal 2.

Embodiment 5.

[0285] Figure 18 is a diagram showing a structure of a transmission transport stream (TS) transmitted by a digital video signal transmission apparatus according to a fifth embodiment.

[0286] As shown in figure 18, the transmission TS comprises multiplexed frames composed of transport stream packets (TSP) and has a periodical structure like an image signal A, speech signals A1 and A2 corresponding to an image of the image signal A, an image signal B, and speech signals B1 and B2 corresponding to an image of the image signal B.

[0287] The speech signals A1 and B1 are modulated according to modulation which provides a large transmission capacity in which mass storage capacity signals can be transmitted and the speech signals A2 and B2 are modulated according to modulation which provides resistibility to a transmission error such as multi-pass interference.

[0288] In TV broadcasting, a speech signal is modulated by 64QAM (quadrature amplitude modulation) or 16QAM which provides a large transmission capacity and transmitted like the image signal with a bandwidth 20kHz. In a car stereo, since this performs mobile object receiving, the speech signal is commonly received with a bandwidth 3kHz, because high-pitched tone is difficult to hear and low-pitched tone is easy to hear. In addition, the transmission error such as the multi-pass interference tends to occur in mobile objects. Hence, as the speech signal, two types of signals of the same content, i.e., a fixed receiving speech signal modulated by 64QAM or 16QAM which provides a large transmission capacity and a mobile object receiving speech signal modulated by DQPSK (differential quadrature phase shift keying) or QPSK (quadrature phase shift key) which provides resistibility to the multi-pass interference, are transmitted simultaneously, and a transmitter 7 transmits a fixed receiving wave for domestic use. Thereby, 20kHz is ensured at maximum. Since the signal according to the DQPSK or QPSK requires transmission time 4 times as long as that of the signal according to the 64QAM or the 16QAM, the former is transmitted with 3-4kHz and the later is transmitted with 20kHz so that they are transmitted in almost the same time.

[0289] While the transmission TS comprises the two image signals and the two types of speech signals corresponding to each of the images of the image signals, the TS is not limited to this. For instance, the TS may comprise a plurality of image signals which can be transmitted in the TS and the fixed receiving speech signal and the mobile object receiving speech signal corresponding to each of plural images of the plural image signals.

[0290] Figure 19 is a block diagram showing a digital video signal transmission apparatus of the fifth embodiment.

[0291] In figure 19, reference numeral C2 denotes an MPEG encoder for image compression which receives an image signal externally and compresses the image signal into an image signal adapted to high definition (HD) broadcasting or standard definition (SD) broadcasting. Reference numeral C3 denotes a speech MPEG encoder which receives a speech signal externally, compresses the speech signal into a speech signal adapted to the HD broadcasting or the SD broadcasting, and outputs the speech signal from speech outputs 1 and 2. Reference numeral C4 denotes a TS multiplexer which divides the image signal A output from the MPEG encoder C2 and the speech signals A1 and A2 output from the MPEG encoder C3 into separate TSPs, multiplexes the TSPs into the TS shown in figure 18, and outputs the TS. Reference numeral C5 denotes a transmission line encoding unit which performs error protection by correcting errors in 16-byte parity by a Reed-Solomon code for each of the TSPs composing the TS, and then hierarchizes the TSPs, and outputs a signal which has been subjected to energy diffusion byte-interleaving, and convolutional encoding. Reference numeral C6 denotes an OFDM (orthogonal frequency division multiplexing) modulator which performs carrier modulation for each of layers in a hierarchy of the hierarchized TSPs, and then performs layer composition and time-and-frequency interleaving, to form OFDM frames. Reference numeral C7 denotes a transmitter which transmits a video signal in which OFDM segments comprising the OFDM frames from the OFDM modulator C6 have been subjected to OFDM, through ground wave digital broadcasting. Briefly, the video signal transmission apparatus of the fifth embodiment comprises the MPEG encoder C2 for image compression, the speech MPEG encoder C3, the TS multiplexer C4, the transmission line encoding unit C5, the OFDM modulator C6, and the transmitter C7.

[0292] While the video signal transmission apparatus shown in figure 19 includes the MPEG encoder C2 for image compression and the speech MPEG encoder C3 for outputting one image signal and two types of speech signals corresponding to an image of the image signal, in order to output plural image signals and two types of speech signals corresponding to each of plural images of the plural image signals, it is required that the apparatus include plural MPEG encoders C2 and plural speech encoders C3.

[0293] Figure 20 is a block diagram showing a detailed structure of the OFDM modulator C6 shown in figure 19.

[0294] In figure 20, the same reference numerals as those shown in figure 19 denote the same or the corresponding parts. Reference numeral D21 denotes a carrier modulating unit which performs carrier modulation for each of the layers of the hierarchized TSPs output from the transmission line encoding unit C5. D22 denotes a layer composition unit which performs layer composition for signals of the respective layers modulated by the carrier modulating unit D21 and outputs the resulting signal. D23 denotes a time/frequency interleaving unit which subjects the signal from the layer composition unit D22 to time and frequency interleaving. D24 denotes an OFDM frame creating unit which performs OFDM to create the OFDM frames, and outputs the OFDM frames.

[0295] A description will now be given of operation of so constructed digital video signal transmission apparatus of the fifth embodiment with reference to figures 18-20.

[0296] The MPEG encoder C2 receives the image signal externally as an input, compresses the image signal into the image signal A in a way adapted to the high definition (HD) broadcasting or the standard definition (SD) broadcasting, and outputs the image signal A. Simultaneously, the speech MPEG encoder C3 receives the speech signal corresponding to the image signal externally as an input, compresses the speech signal into the speech signals A1 and A2, and outputs the speech signals A1 and A2 from the speech outputs 1 and 2.

[0297] The TS multiplexer C4 separates the image signal A from the MPEG encoder C2 and the speech signals A1

and A2 from the MPEG encoder C3 into separate TPSs and multiplexes the TPSs into the transmission TS shown in figure 18.

[0298] While the MPEG encoder C3 outputs the speech signals A1 and A2 through the speech outputs 1 and 2 to the TS multiplexer C4 temporally in parallel, the speech signals A1 and A2 may be output temporally in series through one output. Besides, since the speech signals A1 and A2 are the same when they are output from the MPEG encoder C3, two speech signals to be output through one output may be numbered serially, and the TS multiplexer C4 may multiplex the two speech signals according to the corresponding numbers. Here, a frequency bandwidth is determined and coding is performed.

[0299] The transmission line encoding unit C5 receives the transmission TS from the TS multiplexer and performs error protection by correcting errors in 16-byte parity by the Reed-Solomon code for each of the TPSs composing the TS, and then hierarchizes the TSPs, and outputs the signal which has been subjected to energy diffusion, byte-interleaving, and convolutional encoding. The transmitter C7 transmits the fixed receiving wave for domestic use. So, the TSPs of the image signal A and the speech signal A1 are placed in higher layers in the hierarchy because they are modulated by modulation providing a large transmission capacity, while the TSP of the speech signal A2 is placed in a lower layer in the hierarchy because it is modulated by modulation providing resistibility to the multi-pass interference.

[0300] The carrier modulating unit D21 included in the OFDM modulator C6 performs carrier modulation for each of the layers of the hierarchized TSPs from the transmission line encoding unit C5 and outputs the resulting TPSs. For instance, the TPSs of the image signal A and the speech signal A1 in higher layers are modulated by the 64QAM or the 16QAM which provides a large transmission capacity, and the TPS of the speech signal A2 in the lower layer is modulated by the QPSK or the DQPSK which provides resistibility to multi-pass interference.

[0301] The layer composition unit D22 receives the signals in the respective layers modulated by the carrier modulating unit D21, performs layer composition for these signals, and outputs a hierarchical composite signal.

[0302] The time/frequency interleaving unit D23 receives the hierarchical composite signal from the layer composition unit D22 as an input and performs time/frequency interleaving for the signal.

[0303] The OFDM frame creating unit D24 creates the OFDM frames from the interleaved signals output from the time/frequency interleaving unit D23, and outputs the OFDM frames.

[0304] The transmitter C7 performs OFDM to carrier of one or a plurality of OFDM segments (OFDM frames) which have been modulated by DQPSK, 64QAM, and the like, and transmits the resulting OFDM segment. At this time, to the OFDM segment (carrier), a control signal (including a modulation mode signal) is added. A plurality of the OFDM segments to which control signals have been added are combined and transmitted, and at a receiving end, a transmission parameter such as "modulation" or error correction" is independently estimated.

[0305] The mobile object receiving speech signal is thus multiplexed and transmitted as measures against the multi-pass interference. Hence, when receiving this speech signal, charge is requested to the user as system charge. Preferably, accounting is performed according to how many times this speech signal is used.

[0306] Accordingly, the digital video transmission apparatus shown in figure 19 further comprises an accounting information addition unit 29 for adding an accounting signal to the mobile object receiving speech signal (speech signal A2 or B2), thereby performing accounting depending upon how the speech signal is used at the receiving end.

[0307] The accounting information addition unit 29 adds accounting information to a data portion of the speech signal A2 output from the speech MPEG encoder C3. This makes a data length of the speech signal A2 different from that of the speech signal A1. Therefore, if the speech signal A1 is switched to the speech signal A2 at the receiving end, the speech signal A2 cannot be received. As a solution to this, the accounting information addition unit 29 adds a NULL signal to the speech signal A1 to make it have a data length equal to that of the speech signal A2 to which the accounting information has been added.

[0308] Operation of components other than the accounting information addition unit 29 is identical to that of the digital video signal transmission apparatus shown in figure 19.

[0309] The accounting information may be included in the control signal. As described above, the speech signals A1 and A2 correspond to the segments and the control signal for controlling a mode (carrier modulation, coding efficiency for internal codes, time interleaving length, and the like) is added to each data segment, and therefore a signal adapted to carrier modulation of the control signal may be used as the accounting signal. It is preferable to add the accounting information to the data portion in order to reliably use the accounting information, because the control signal is sometimes used independently of the speech signal A1 or A2 when demodulated into a receiving TS. Hence, the accounting information may be added to both of the data portion and the control signal to obtain the accounting information more reliably.

[0310] Thus, in accordance with the digital video signal transmission apparatus of the fifth embodiment, the speech encoder compresses the speech signal and outputs the two speech signals from the two speech outputs, the OFDM modulator modulates one of the speech signals by modulation which provides a large transmission capacity to make the fixed receiving speech signal and the other signal by modulation which provides resistibility to the transmission errors to make the mobile object receiving speech signal, which are subjected to time division multiplexing and trans-

mitted. At the receiving end, the fixed receiving speech signal is used in a preferable receiving state, while if the transmission error such as the multi-pass interference occurs, the mobile object receiving speech signal is used, thereby reproducing the digital speech signal correctly.

[0311] In addition, since the frequency bandwidth of the mobile object receiving speech signal is made narrower than that of the fixed receiving speech signal, not only the mobile object receiving speech signal is resistive to the transmission error but its quality is ensured without affecting hearing.

[0312] Besides, since the frequency bandwidth of the mobile object receiving speech signal is 3-4kHz and the frequency bandwidth of the fixed receiving speech signal is 20kHz, these signals can be transmitted in almost the same time.

[0313] Further, since the accounting information addition unit adds the accounting information to the mobile object receiving speech signal of the two signals output from the speech encoder, at the receiving end, the accounting information is used to perform accounting to usage of this digital video signal transmission system depending upon how the user uses the mobile object receiving speech signal.

Embodiment 6.

[0314] Figure 22 is a block diagram showing a digital video signal receiving apparatus according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention.

[0315] In figure 22 reference numeral 31 denotes a tuner which receives the video signal transmitted from the digital video signal transmission apparatus of the fifth embodiment as an input, converts the video signal into an intermediate-frequency signal and outputs the intermediate-frequency signal. 32 denotes an OFDM demodulator which demodulates the OFDM frames from the intermediate-frequency signal from the tuner 31 and separates the signals of the TS and the modulation mode signals of the intermediate-frequency signal. 33 denotes a frequency/time deinterleaving unit which performs time and frequency deinterleaving for the TS signals from the OFDM demodulator 32. 34 denotes a modulation division unit which subjects the deinterleaved signals from the frequency/time deinterleaving unit 33 to modulation division according to the modulation mode signals, demaps the modulation-divided signals in a way adapted to respective modulation, and then performs modulation composition for the demapped signals. 35 denotes a TS separator which performs Viterbi decoding, byte-deinterleaving, and energy diffusion to reproduce the TS. Here, for each of the TSPs composing the TS, bit errors are corrected in 16-byte parity by a Reed-Solomon code, and the resulting signal is divided into the image signal A, the speech signal A1, and the speech signal A2, and output. 36 denotes a receiving status detector which detects a multi-pass status or a receiving level of the intermediate-frequency signal output from the tuner 31, and outputs a switching signal when a detected value is lower than a predetermined value. 37 denotes a speech switching controller which usually receives the speech signal A1 from the speech output 1. When the switching signal is output from the receiving status detector 36, according to the switching signal, the switching controller 37 is adapted to switch an input from the TS separator 35 from the speech output 1 to the speech output 2 to receive the speech signal A2. 38 denotes an MPEG decoder which decodes the image signal from the Ts separator 35 and the speech signal selected by the speech switching controller 37 and outputs the resulting decoded signals separately. 39 denotes a display which displays an image decoded by the MPEG decoder 38. 40 denotes a speaker system which plays back speech decoded by the MPEG decoder 38.

[0316] A description will be given of so constructed digital video signal receiving apparatus according to the sixth embodiment with reference to figures 22 and 23.

[0317] The tuner 31 receives the video signal transmitted from the digital video signal transmission apparatus of the fifth embodiment as an input, converts the video signal into the intermediate-frequency signal and outputs the intermediate-frequency signal.

[0318] The OFDM demodulator 32 demodulates the OFDM frames from the intermediate-frequency signal output from the tuner 31 and separates the signals of the TS and the controls signals (modulation mode signals) of the intermediate-frequency signal.

[0319] The frequency/time deinterleaving unit 33 performs time and frequency deinterleaving for the TS signals from the OFDM demodulator 32 according to the control signals output from the OFDM demodulator 32.

[0320] The modulation division unit 34 subjects the deinterleaved signals from the frequency/time deinterleaving unit 33 to modulation division according to the modulation mode signals, demaps the modulation-divided signals in a way adapted to respective modulation (QPSK, 16QAM, 64QAM), and then performs modulation composition for the demapped signals.

[0321] TS separator 35 performs Viterbi decoding, byte-deinterleaving, and energy diffusion to reproduce the TS. Specifically, the signal processed for each of the layers is stored in the corresponding buffer for each layer. Each buffer is checked whether or not data (TSP) is stored therein, and when data is stored therein, the corresponding buffer is sent to an external encoder (Reed-Solomon decoding). When the TSPs are stored in the buffers for two or more layers, the TSP stored in the buffer for the layer of a smaller segment number (TSP stored previously) is selected and extracted.

On the other hand, when there is no TSP, a NULL packet is transmitted. For each of the TSPs of so reproduced TS, the bit errors are corrected in 16-byte parity by the Reed-Solomon code, and the resulting signal is divided into the image signal A, the speech signal A1, and the speech signal A2, and output.

[0322] The receiving status detector 36 detects the multi-pass status or the receiving level of the intermediate-frequency signal, and outputs the switching signal when the detected value is lower than the predetermined value.

[0323] The speech switching controller 37 usually receives the speech signal A1 from the speech output 1. When the switching signal is output from the receiving status detector 36, according to the switching signal, the switching controller 37 switches the input from the TS separator 35 from the speech output 1 to the speech output 2 to receive the speech signal A2.

[0324] The TS separator 35 reproduces a receiving TS shown in figure 6. When the receiving status of the video signal is preferable, the speech switching controller 37 selects the output from the speech output 1 to be adapted to the HD broadcasting or the SD broadcasting, and the TS separator 35 outputs the speech signal A1 or the speech signal B1 from the speech output 1, whereby a part of a TS1 shown in figure 6 is output. On the other hand, when receiving the image signal B in a worse condition, the speech switching controller 37 selects the speech output 2 for outputting the speech signal modulated by the DQPSK or the QPSK which provides resistibility to the multi-pass interference, and therefore the TS separator 35 outputs the speech signal B2 from the speech output 2, whereby a part of a TS2 shown in figure 6 is output.

[0325] The MPEG decoder 38 decodes the image signal from the TS separator 35 and the speech signal selected by the speech switching controller 37 and outputs the resulting decoded signals separately.

[0326] The display 39 displays the image decoded by the MPEG decoder 38.

[0327] The speaker system 40 plays back speech decoded by the MPEG decoder 38.

[0328] Figure 24 is a block diagram showing another digital video signal receiving apparatus according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention.

[0329] In the figure, the same reference numerals as those shown in figure 22 denote the same or the corresponding parts. Reference numeral 41 denotes an accounting information storage unit which stores the accounting information added to the mobile object receiving speech signal. 42 denotes an accounting information input/output unit which reads the accounting information stored in the accounting information storage unit 41.

[0330] A description will be given of operation of the above digital video signal receiving apparatus which is different from that shown in figure 22 with reference to figure 24.

[0331] The speech switching controller 37, when it receives the speech signal A1 to which the NULL information has been added, from the speech output 1, removes the NULL information from the speech signal A1 and outputs the resulting signal. When it receives the switching signal from the receiving status detector 36, the controller 37 receives the speech signal A2 to which the accounting information has been added, from the speech output 2, separates the accounting information from the speech signal A2 and stores the accounting information in the accounting information storage unit 41. The accounting information stored in the storage unit 41 is output to the display 39 and displayed thereon as necessary to show how the user uses the mobile object receiving signal (speech signal A2). In this case, upper limit amount of money of the stored accounting information may be set in the accounting information storage unit 41, and when the upper limit amount is almost reached, an image for instructing the user to settle accounts may be displayed on the display 39.

[0332] The accounting information input/output unit 42 reads the accounting information stored in the accounting information storage unit 41 and performs settlement of accounts by deducting the corresponding amount of money from a prepaid card and the like. The accounting information input/output unit 42 uplinks a broadcasting station and the like by a portable telephone or Road Automobile Communication System at regular time intervals to inform the user how he/she uses the mobile object receiving signal based on the accounting information. The broadcasting station also understands how the user uses the signal and utilizes it to provide a service.

[0333] Thus, in accordance with the digital video signal receiving apparatus of the seventh embodiment, the video signal in which the image signal and the fixed receiving speech signal and the mobile object receiving speech signal of the same content corresponding to the image signal are multiplexed is received, the receiving status detector detects the receiving status, and when the detected value is lower than the predetermined value, it outputs the switching signal to the speech switching controller, which performs switching from the fixed receiving speech signal to the mobile object receiving speech signal and outputs the mobile object receiving speech signal to the decoder. Therefore, in the preferable receiving status, the fixed receiving speech signal is reproduced and if the transmission error such as the multi-pass interference might occur, the mobile object receiving speech signal is reproduced correctly.

In addition, the accounting information added to the mobile object receiving speech signal input by the speech signal switching controller is stored in the accounting information storage unit, and read by the accounting information input/output unit, and settlement of accounts is performed by the same. Hence, depending upon how the user uses the mobile object receiving speech signal, accounting is performed to usage of the digital video signal transmission system.

Claims

1. A video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication, wherein:
 - said video information is hierarchized to obtain hierarchical video information; and
 - part of the hierarchical video information in a hierarchical rank according to read right information which is transmitted from the mobile terminal unit at the time of the request is made readable.
2. The video information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein a decryption key, with which part of the video information in a hierarchical rank specified by the mobile terminal unit which has made the request can be read, is added to the hierarchical video information.
3. The video information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein said read right information is an ID.
4. The video information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein said hierarchical video information is map information.
5. The video information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein accounting for the video information distributed from the central station is performed according to a hierarchical rank of the video information, based on accounting information and read right information which specifies the hierarchical rank of the video information, said accounting information and said read right information being transmitted from the mobile terminal unit which has made the request.
6. A video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication, wherein:
 - accounting for the distributed video information in the central station unit is performed in accordance with accounting information transmitted from the mobile terminal unit which has made the request.
7. The video information distribution method according to any of Claims 5 and 6, wherein:
 - said accounting information includes information as to whether the distributed video information has been normally received or not; and
 - accounting in the central station unit is performed only when the accounting information includes the information indicating that the distributed video information has been normally received.
8. The video information distribution method according to any of Claims 5 and 6, wherein:
 - said accounting information includes information indicating the receiving error rate of the distributed video information; and
 - accounting in the central station unit is performed according to the receiving error rate included in the accounting information.
9. The video information distribution method according to any of Claims 5 and 6, wherein said accounting information in the mobile terminal unit is transmitted to the central station unit together with request information at the next request.
10. The video information distribution method according to any of Claims 5 and 6, wherein said accounting information in the mobile terminal unit is transmitted to the central station unit when a predetermined period of time has passed after the mobile terminal unit received the video information distributed from the central station unit.

11. The video information distribution method according to Claim 9, wherein said accounting information in the mobile terminal unit is transmitted through a telephone line, a beacon, an automatic toll gate, or a satellite.

12. The video information distribution method according to Claim 9, wherein:

said accounting information in the mobile terminal unit is transmitted through a telephone line; and authentication of said accounting information in the central station unit is performed by utilizing telephone number notification of the user of the mobile terminal unit.

13. A central station unit used for a video information distribution method for distributing video information from the central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication, said central station unit comprising:

receiving means for receiving the request transmitted from the mobile terminal unit by the radio communication;

transmission means for distributing the requested video information to the mobile terminal unit by the digital radio communication; and

communication control means for performing control so that the video information has a hierarchical structure, and part of the video information in a hierarchical rank according to read right information taken from the request received by the receiving means, can be read by the mobile terminal unit.

14. The central station unit according to Claim 13, wherein said communication control means adds a decryption key, with which part of the video information in a hierarchical rank specified by the mobile terminal unit which has made the request can be read, to the video information in accordance with read right information specifying the hierarchical rank.

15. The central station unit according to Claim 14 wherein said read right information is an ID.

16. The central station unit according to any of Claims 13 and 14 wherein said hierarchical video information is map information.

17. The central station unit according to any of Claims 13 and 14, comprising:

said receiving means receiving accounting information from the mobile terminal unit which has made the request; and

accounting means performing accounting for the video information distributed according to the hierarchical rank of the video information, based on the accounting information and the read right information.

18. A central station unit used for a video information distribution method for distributing video information from the central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication, said central station unit comprising:

receiving means for receiving accounting information which has been transmitted together with the request information from the mobile terminal unit by the radio communication;

transmission means for transmitting the requested video information to the mobile terminal unit by the digital radio communication; and

accounting control means for performing accounting on the requested video information in accordance with the accounting information received by the receiving means.

19. The central station unit according to Claim 18, wherein:

said accounting information includes information as to whether the distributed video information has been nor-

mally received or not; and

said accounting control means performs accounting only when the accounting information includes the information indicating that the distributed video information has been normally received.

5 20. A central station unit according to Claim 18, wherein:

said accounting information includes information indicating the receiving error rate of the distributed video information; and

10 said accounting control means performs accounting according to the receiving error rate included in the accounting information.

21. A central station unit according to Claim 18 further comprising communication control means which performs authentication of the accounting information received by the receiving means, by utilizing telephone number notification of the user of the mobile terminal unit.

15 22. A mobile terminal unit used for video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication, said mobile terminal unit comprising:

input means for inputting the request;
25 transmission means for transmitting, by the radio communication, read right information which enables the central station unit to read a predetermined hierarchical rank of video information requested to the central station unit;
receiving means for receiving video information distributed from the central station unit by the digital radio communication;
30 communication control means for performing control so that the video information in the hierarchical rank according to the read right information included in the video information received by the receiving means can be read; and
reproduction means for reproducing the video information received by the receiving means, under control of the communication control means.

35 23. A mobile terminal unit used for video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication, said mobile terminal unit comprising:

input means for inputting the request;
45 transmission means for transmitting, by the radio communication, read right information which enables the central station unit to read a predetermined hierarchical rank of video information requested to the central station unit;
receiving means for receiving video information which has been given a decryption key in the central station unit and then distributed from the central station unit by the digital radio communication;
communication control means for performing control so that the decryption key in the video information received by the receiving means is decrypted to make the video information in the hierarchical rank according to the read right information readable; and
50 reproduction means for reproducing the video information received by the receiving means, under control of the communication control means.

24. The mobile terminal unit according to any of Claims 22 and 23, wherein said read right information is an ID.

55 25. The mobile terminal unit according to any of Claims 22 and 23, wherein said hierarchical video information is map information.

26. A mobile terminal unit used for video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication, said mobile terminal unit comprising:

input means for inputting the request;
 transmission means for transmitting the request for video information to the central station unit by the radio communication;
 receiving means for receiving video information distributed from the central station unit by the digital radio communication;
 reproduction means for reproducing the video information received by the receiving means; and
 communication control means for performing control so that accounting information for the video information received by the receiving means is transmitted to the central station unit together with request information input to the input means at the next request.

27. A mobile terminal unit used for video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication, said mobile terminal unit comprising:

input means for inputting the request;
 transmission means for transmitting the request for video information to the central station unit by the radio communication;
 receiving means for receiving video information distributed from the central station unit by the digital radio communication;
 reproduction means for reproducing the video information received by the receiving means; and
 communication control means for performing control so that accounting information for the video information received by the receiving means is transmitted to the central station when a predetermined period of time has passed after the receiving means received the video information.

28. A video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication, wherein:

said mobile terminal unit transmits receiving environment information indicating the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit, to the central station unit, when the mobile terminal unit transmits the request; and
 said central station unit changes a method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors in the distribution of video information to the mobile terminal unit, in accordance with the receiving environment information transmitted from the mobile terminal unit.

29. The video information distribution method according to Claim 28, wherein said method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors is to change a first modulation method in the distribution of video information to a second modulation method whose resistance to occurrence of code errors in the distribution of video information is different from that of the first modulation method.

30. The video information distribution method according to Claim 28, wherein said method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors is to change the redundancy of the video information to be distributed.

31. The video information distribution method according to Claim 28, wherein said receiving environment information is information indicating that the terminal unit is a mobile terminal unit.

32. The video information distribution method according to Claim 28, wherein:

said mobile terminal unit detects a code error rate in the distribution of video information to store it; and
 said mobile terminal unit transmits the code error rate as the receiving environment information, to the central station unit, when it transmits the request.

5 **33.** The video information distribution method according to Claim 28, wherein the mobile terminal unit detects a location of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted and transmits the location to the central station unit as the receiving environment information.

10 **34.** The video information distribution method according to Claim 33, wherein

the mobile terminal unit further detects and holds a code error rate in distribution of the video information, and transmits the code error rate and the location of the mobile object to the central station unit as the receiving environment information when it makes a request, and

15 the central station unit stores the location of the mobile object and the code error rate which are transmitted from the mobile terminal unit as a map showing a receiving environment of a video information distribution area, and

performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error in distribution of the video information to the mobile terminal unit when the mobile terminal unit makes a request.

20 **35.** The video information distribution method according to Claim 28, wherein

the mobile terminal unit detects a speed of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, and transmits the speed to the central station as the receiving environment information.

25 **36.** The video information distribution method according to Claim 28, wherein

the mobile terminal unit generates planned course information of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, by using car navigation, and transmits the planned course information to the central station unit as the receiving environment information.

30 **37.** The video information distribution method according to Claim 36, wherein

the mobile terminal unit obtains road information about a road corresponding to the planned course of the mobile object, and transmits the road information and the planned course information to the central station unit as the receiving environment information.

35 **38.** A central station unit used for a video information distribution method for distributing video information from the central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication, said central station unit comprising:

45 receiving means which receives receiving environment information transmitted together with the request from the mobile terminal unit by the radio communication;

transmission means for performing transmission to the mobile terminal unit by the digital radio communication; and

50 communication control means for transmitting the video information corresponding to the request received by the receiving means to the mobile terminal unit which has made the request by using the transmission means, and changing a method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors in this transmission, in accordance with the receiving environment information received by the receiving means.

55 **39.** The central station unit according to Claim 38, wherein said communication control means changes a first modulation method in the transmission of video information to a second modulation method whose resistance to occurrence of code errors in the transmission is different from that of the first modulation method, as the method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors.

40. The central station unit according to Claim 38, wherein said communication control means changes the redun-

dancy of the video information to be distributed, as the method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors.

41. The central station unit according to Claim 38, wherein:

said receiving environment information is information indicating that the terminal unit is a mobile terminal unit; and
said communication control means changes the method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors, in accordance with the information indicating that the terminal unit is a mobile terminal unit.

42. The central station unit according to Claim 38, wherein:

said receiving environment information is a code error rate in the transmission of video information; and
said communication control means changes the method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors, in accordance with code error rate received by the receiving means.

43. The central station unit according to Claim 38, wherein

the receiving environment information is a location of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, and
the communication control means performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error, according to the location of the mobile object received by the receiving means.

44. The central station unit according to claim 43, wherein,

the receiving environment information is the location of the mobile object and a code error rate in transmission of the video information, and
the communication control means stores the location of the mobile object and the code error rate which are received by the receiving means, as a map showing a receiving environment of a video information distribution area, and
upon receipt of a request from the mobile terminal unit through the receiving means, performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error in transmission of video information to the mobile terminal unit which has made the request, according to the stored map.

45. The central station unit according to Claim 38, wherein

the receiving environment information is a speed of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, and
the communication control means performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error, according to the speed of the mobile object received by the receiving means.

46. The central station unit according to Claim 38, wherein

the receiving environment information is a planned course of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, and
the communication control means performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error, according to the planned course of the mobile object received by the receiving means.

47. The central station unit according to Claim 46, wherein

the receiving environment information is the planned course of the mobile object and road information about a road corresponding to the planned course, and
the communication control means performs switching of the method for ensuring the transmission quality relating to the code error, according to the planned course of the mobile object and the road information which are received by the receiving means.

48. A mobile terminal unit used for a video information distribution method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a

mobile object, in which a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication, said mobile terminal unit comprising:

receiving means for receiving video information transmitted from the central station unit by the digital radio communication;

reproduction means for reproducing the video information received by the receiving means;

input means for inputting the request;

transmission means for performing transmission to the central station unit by the radio communication; and communication control means for transmitting receiving environment information which indicates the receiving environment of the mobile terminal unit, to the central station unit by using the transmission means, together with the request, when the request is input to the input means.

49. The mobile terminal unit according to Claim 48, wherein:

said video information is transmission from the central station unit such that the modulation method therefor has been changed amongst a plurality of modulation methods having different resistances to occurrence of code errors in the digital radio communication; and

said receiving means is provided with a plurality of demodulation means corresponding to the plural modulation methods so that it can demodulate the transmitted video information.

50. The mobile terminal unit according to Claim 48, wherein:

said video information is transmitted from the central station unit such that the redundancy thereof has been changed;

said communication control means makes the reproduction means correct errors in the video information transmitted and received by the receiving means in accordance with the changed redundancy; and

said reproduction means reproduces the error-corrected video information.

51. The mobile terminal unit according to Claim 48, wherein:

said communication control means transmits, as the receiving environment information, information indicating that this terminal unit is a mobile terminal unit.

52. The mobile terminal unit according to Claim 48, wherein:

said receiving means detects a code error rate in the digital radio communication; and

said communication control means stores the code error rate detected by the receiving means and, when the next request is input to the input means, the communication control means transmits the stored code error rate to the central station unit, as the receiving environment information, together with the request.

53. The mobile terminal unit according to claim 48, further comprising:

location information detection means for detecting a location of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, wherein

the communication control means transmits the location of the mobile object detected by the location information detection means, to the central station unit, as the receiving environment information.

54. The mobile terminal unit according to Claim 53, wherein

the receiving means detects a code error rate in the digital radio communication, and

the communication control means holds the code error rate detected by the receiving means, and when a request is input by the input means, transmits the request, the code error rate and

the location of the mobile object as the receiving environment information, to the central station unit.

55. The mobile terminal unit according to Claim 48, further comprising:

location information detection means for detecting a speed of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, wherein

the communication control means transmits the speed of the mobile object detected by the location information detection means, to the central station unit, as the receiving information environment.

56. The mobile terminal unit according to Claim 48, further comprising:

location information detection means for generating planned course information of the mobile object on which the mobile terminal unit is mounted, by using car navigation, and

the communication control means transmits the planned course information of the mobile object generated by the location information detection means, to the central station unit, as the receiving environment information.

57. The mobile terminal unit according to Claim 56, wherein

the location information detection means obtains road information of a road corresponding to the planned course of the mobile object, and

the communication control means transmits the road information obtained by the location information detection means, and the planned course information, to the central station unit, as the receiving environment information.

58. A digital video signal transmission method for transmitting a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal are multiplexed, said method comprising:

modulating the digital speech signal by first modulation to provide a fixed receiving digital speech signal, and modulating the digital speech signal by second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation, to provide a mobile object receiving digital speech signal; and transmitting a digital video signal in which the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal are multiplexed.

59. The digital video signal transmission method according to Claim 58, wherein a frequency bandwidth of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal is made narrower than a frequency bandwidth of the fixed receiving digital speech signal.

60. The digital video signal transmission method according to Claim 59, wherein the frequency bandwidth of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal is set to 3-4 kHz and the frequency bandwidth of the fixed receiving digital speech signal is set to 20 kHz.

61. The digital video signal transmission method according to Claim 58, wherein accounting information is added to the mobile object receiving digital speech signal.

62. A digital video signal transmission apparatus for transmitting a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal which are externally input are multiplexed, wherein said apparatus,

modulates the digital speech signal by first modulation to provide a fixed receiving digital speech signal; modulates the digital speech signal by second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation, to provide a mobile object receiving digital speech signal; and transmits a digital video signal in which the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal are multiplexed.

63. A digital video signal transmission apparatus for transmitting a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal which are externally input are multiplexed, said apparatus comprising:

image encoding means which compresses the digital image signal externally input; speech encoding means which compresses the digital speech signal externally input into a compressed digital speech signal and outputs the compressed digital speech signal as a fixed receiving digital speech signal and a mobile object receiving digital speech signal;

transport stream multiplexing means which packetizes the digital image signal from the image encoding means, the fixed receiving digital speech signal and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal from the speech encoding means and multiplexes the resulting packets into a transport stream;

transmission line encoding means which performs error protection for each of the packets composing the transport stream multiplexed by the transport stream multiplexing means and hierarchizes the packets in such a way that packets of the digital image signal and the fixed receiving digital speech signal are positioned in higher layers in a hierarchy and a packet of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal is positioned in a lower layer in the hierarchy;

orthogonal frequency division multiplexing modulation means which modulates the packet of the higher layer by first modulation to provide a modulated fixed receiving digital speech signal and modulates the packet of the lower layer by second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation to provide a modulated mobile object receiving digital speech signal, among the hierarchized packets from the transmission line encoding means; and

a transmitter which receives a modulated digital image signal, the modulated fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the modulated mobile object receiving digital speech signal from the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing modulation means, and transmits a digital video signal in which the modulated digital image signal, the modulated fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the modulated mobile object receiving digital speech signal are time-division multiplexed.

64. The digital video signal transmission apparatus according to Claim 62, wherein a frequency bandwidth of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal is made narrower than a frequency bandwidth of the fixed receiving digital speech signal.

65. The digital video signal transmission apparatus according to Claim 64, wherein the frequency bandwidth of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal is set to 3-4 kHz and the frequency bandwidth of the fixed receiving digital speech signal is set to 20 kHz.

66. The digital video signal transmission apparatus according to Claim 62, wherein accounting information is added to the mobile object receiving digital speech signal.

67. A digital video signal receiving method which receives a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal are multiplexed as an input, and reproduces the digital image signal and the digital speech signal from the received digital video signal, wherein

the digital video signal comprises a fixed receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating the digital speech signal according to first modulation and a mobile object receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating the digital speech signal according to second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation, and the digital image signal, and the fixed receiving digital speech signal, the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, and the digital image signal are multiplexed, said method comprising:

a demodulation step for receiving and demodulating the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal;

a receiving status detecting step for detecting a signal level of the received digital video signal and outputting a control signal when a detected value is lower than a preset value; and

a speech switching control step for receiving the fixed receiving digital speech signal from a fixed receiving speech output as an input and outputting the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and when the signal level of the received digital video signal is lower than the preset value, performing switching to a mobile object receiving speech output to receive the mobile object receiving digital speech signal as an input and outputting the mobile object receiving digital speech signal.

68. A digital video signal receiving method which receives a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal are multiplexed as an input, and reproduces the digital image signal and the digital speech signal from the received digital video signal, wherein

the digital video signal comprises a fixed receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating the digital speech signal according to first modulation and a mobile object receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating a signal resulting from addition of accounting information to the digital speech signal according to second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation, and the

digital image signal, and the fixed receiving digital speech signal, the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, and the digital image signal are multiplexed, said method comprising:

a demodulation step for receiving and demodulating the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal;

a receiving status detecting step for detecting a signal level of the received digital video signal and outputting a control signal when a detected value is lower than a preset value;

a speech switching control step for receiving the fixed receiving digital speech signal from a fixed receiving speech output as an input and outputting the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and when the signal level of the received digital video signal is lower than the preset value, performing switching to a mobile object receiving speech output to receive the mobile object receiving digital speech signal as an input, extracting and storing the accounting information, and outputting the mobile object receiving digital speech signal; and an accounting information input/output step for performing accounting to usage of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal according to the stored accounting information.

69. A digital video signal receiving apparatus which receives a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal are multiplexed as an input, and reproduces the digital image signal and the digital speech signal from the received digital video signal, wherein

the digital video signal comprises a fixed receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating the digital speech signal according to first modulation and a mobile object receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating the digital speech signal according to second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation, and the digital image signal, and the fixed receiving digital speech signal, the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, and the digital image signal are multiplexed, said apparatus comprising:

a tuner which receives the digital video signal;

orthogonal frequency division multiplexing demodulation means which demodulates the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal;

modulation division means which subjects demodulated signals from the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing demodulation means to modulation division, demapping in ways adapted to respective modulation methods, and then modulation composition;

transport stream separating means which reproduces a transport stream from modulation-composited signals from the modulation division means, corrects errors for each of packets composing the transport stream, separates the packets into the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, and outputs the digital image signal, the fixed speech receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, from a video output, a fixed receiving speech output, and a mobile object receiving speech output, respectively;

a receiving status detection means which detects a signal level of the received digital video signal and outputting a control signal when a detected value is lower than a preset value;

a speech switching control means which receives the fixed receiving digital speech signal from the fixed receiving speech output as an input and outputs the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and when receiving the control signal from the receiving status detection means, performs switching to the mobile object receiving speech output to receive the mobile object receiving digital speech signal as an input and outputs the mobile object receiving digital speech signal;

a decoder which receives and decodes the digital image signal from the transport stream separating means, and either the fixed receiving digital speech signal or the mobile object receiving digital speech signal output from the speech switching control means;

a display which displays a decoded image; and

a speaker system which plays back decoded speech.

70. A digital video signal receiving apparatus which receives a digital video signal in which a digital image signal and a digital speech signal corresponding to the digital image signal are multiplexed as an input, and reproduces the digital image signal and the digital speech signal from the received digital video signal, wherein

the digital video signal comprises a fixed receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating the digital speech signal according to first modulation and a mobile object receiving digital speech signal obtained by modulating a signal resulting from addition of accounting information to the digital speech signal according to second modulation which provides higher resistibility to a transmission error than the first modulation, and the digital image signal, and the fixed receiving digital speech signal, the mobile object receiving digital speech signal,

nal, and the digital image signal are multiplexed, said apparatus comprising:

a tuner which receives the digital video signal;

orthogonal frequency division multiplexing demodulation means which demodulates the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal;

modulation division means which subjects demodulated signals from the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing demodulation means to modulation division, demapping in ways adapted to respective modulation methods, and then modulation composition;

transport stream separating means which reproduces a transport stream from modulation-composited signals from the modulation division means, corrects errors for each of packets composing the transport stream, separates the packets into the digital image signal, the fixed receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, and outputs the digital image signal, the fixed speech receiving digital speech signal, and the mobile object receiving digital speech signal, from a video output, a fixed receiving speech output, and a mobile object receiving speech output, respectively;

a receiving status detection means which detects a signal level of the received digital video signal and outputting a control signal when a detected value is lower than a preset value;

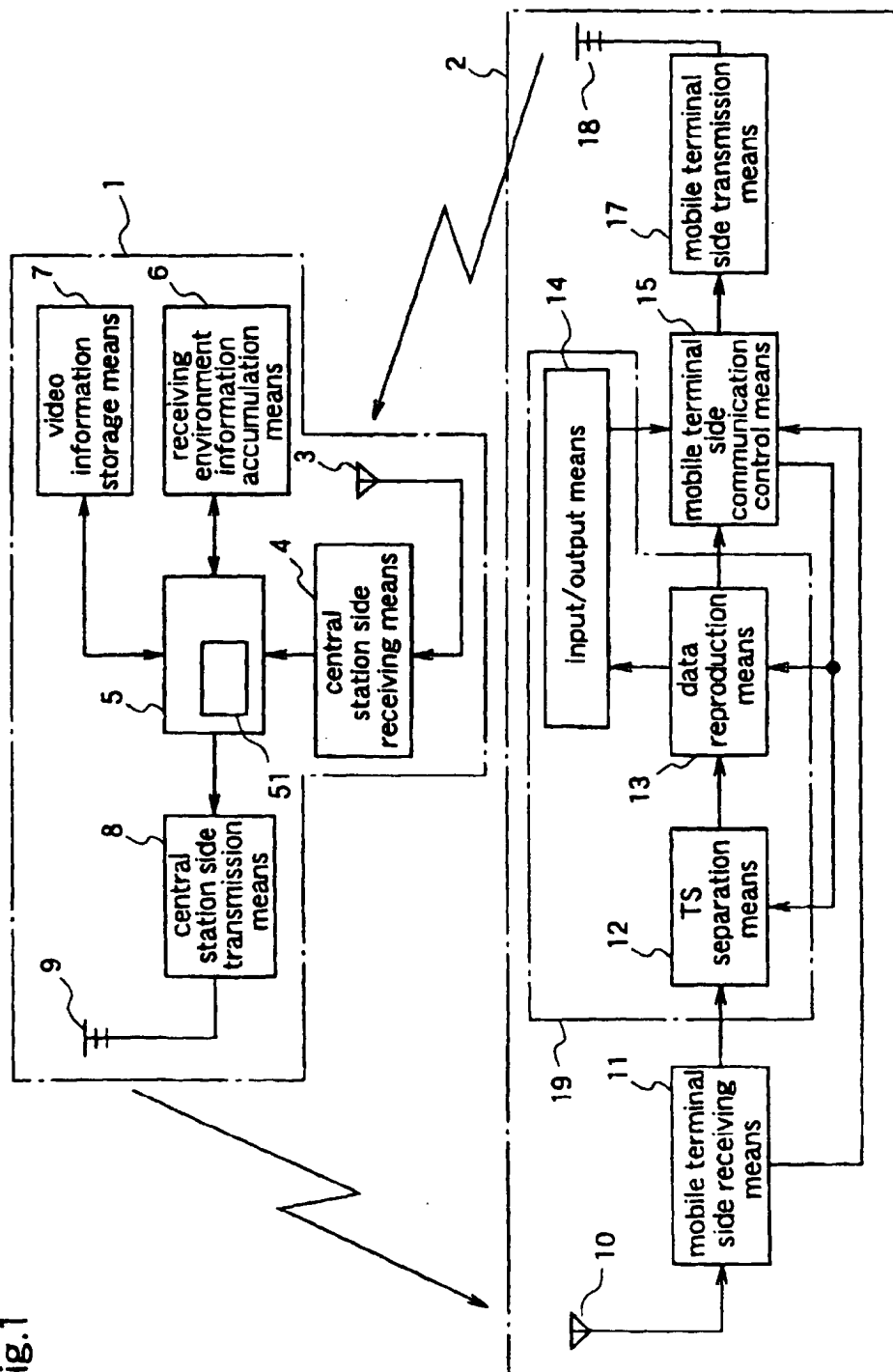
a speech switching control step which receives the fixed receiving digital speech signal from a fixed receiving speech output as an input and outputs the fixed receiving speech, and when the signal level of the received digital video signal is lower than the preset value, performs switching to the mobile object receiving speech output to receive the mobile object receiving digital speech signal as an input, extracts and stores the accounting information, and outputs the mobile object receiving digital speech signal;

accounting information input/output means which performs accounting to usage of the mobile object receiving digital speech signal according to the stored accounting information;

a decoder which receives and decodes the digital image signal from the transport stream separating means, and either the fixed receiving digital speech signal or the mobile object receiving digital speech signal output from the speech switching control means;

a display which displays a decoded image; and

a speaker system which plays back decoded speech.



15.

Fig.2

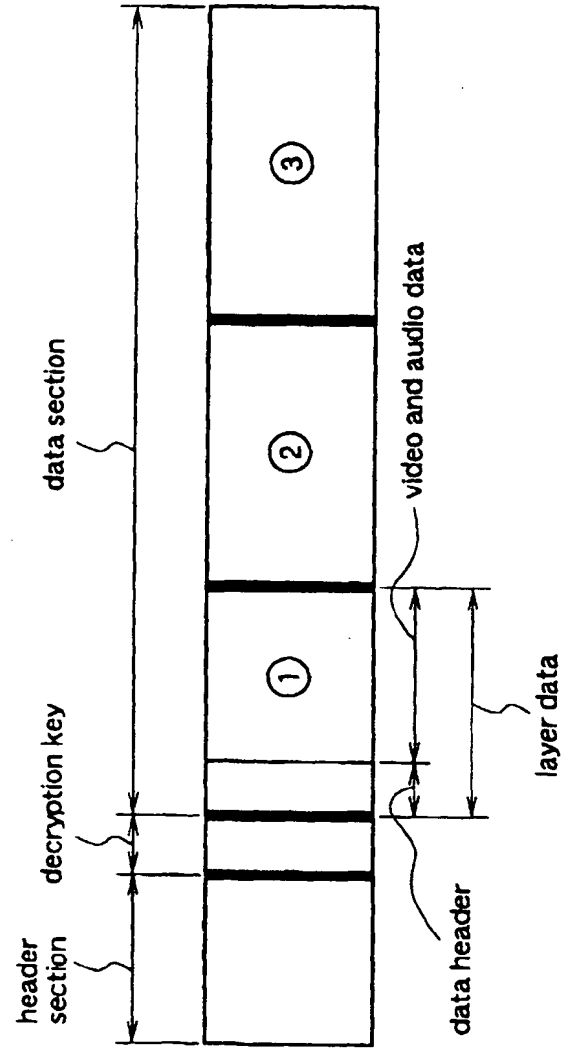


Fig.3 (a)

Fig.3 (b)

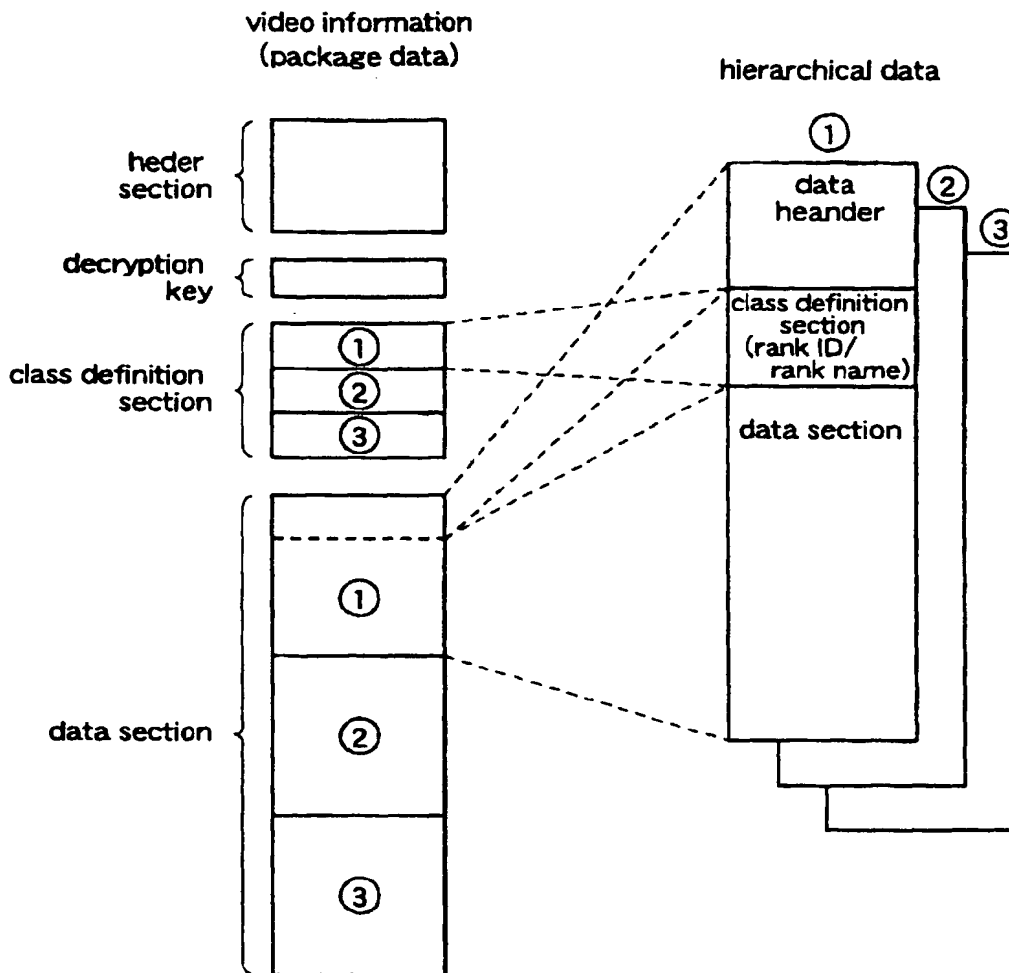


Fig.4 (a)

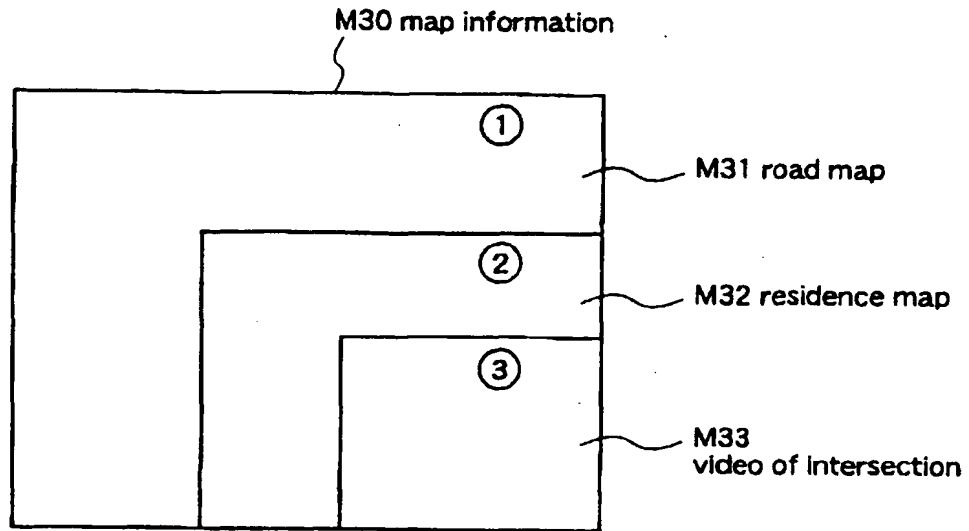


Fig.4 (b)

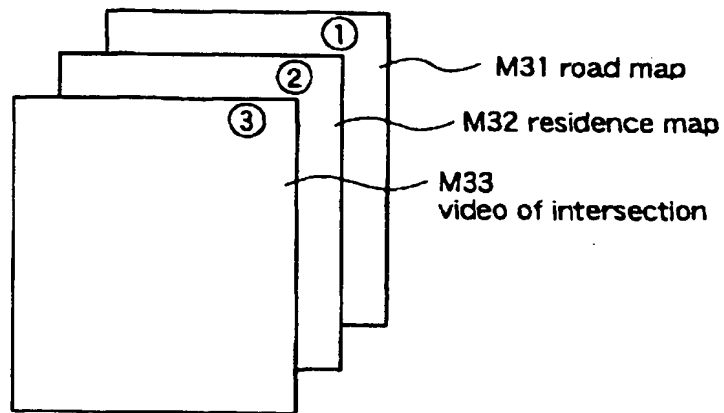


Fig.5

information ID number

layer symbols	data
A	
B	
C	
⋮	
X	
Y	
Z	

Fig.6

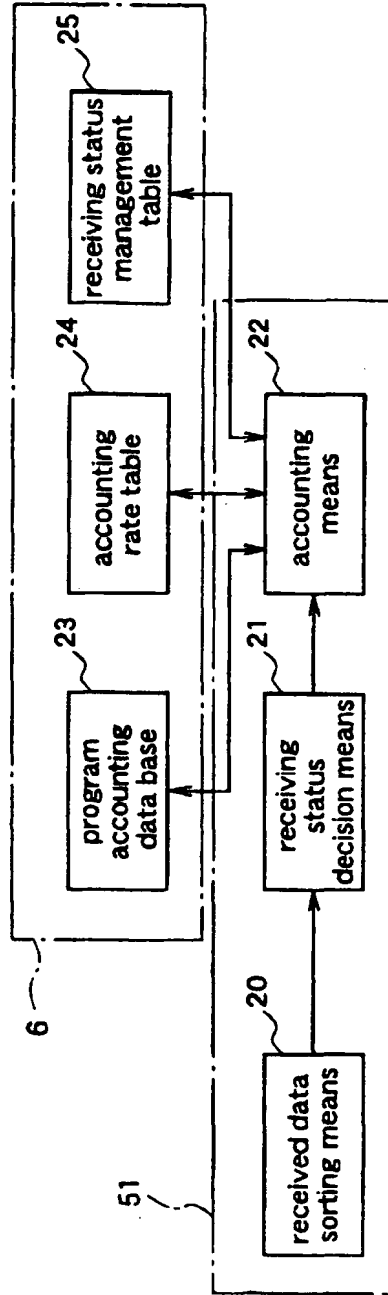


Fig.7 (a)

program accounting data base

user ID	obtained data	receiving result	accounting rate	charge

Fig.7 (b)

accounting rate table

program information No.	file information	information charge	accounting rate (error status : accounting ratio)

Fig.7 (c)

receiving status management table

user ID	requested information No. (program)	receiving status (file : status)	transmission status

Fig.8

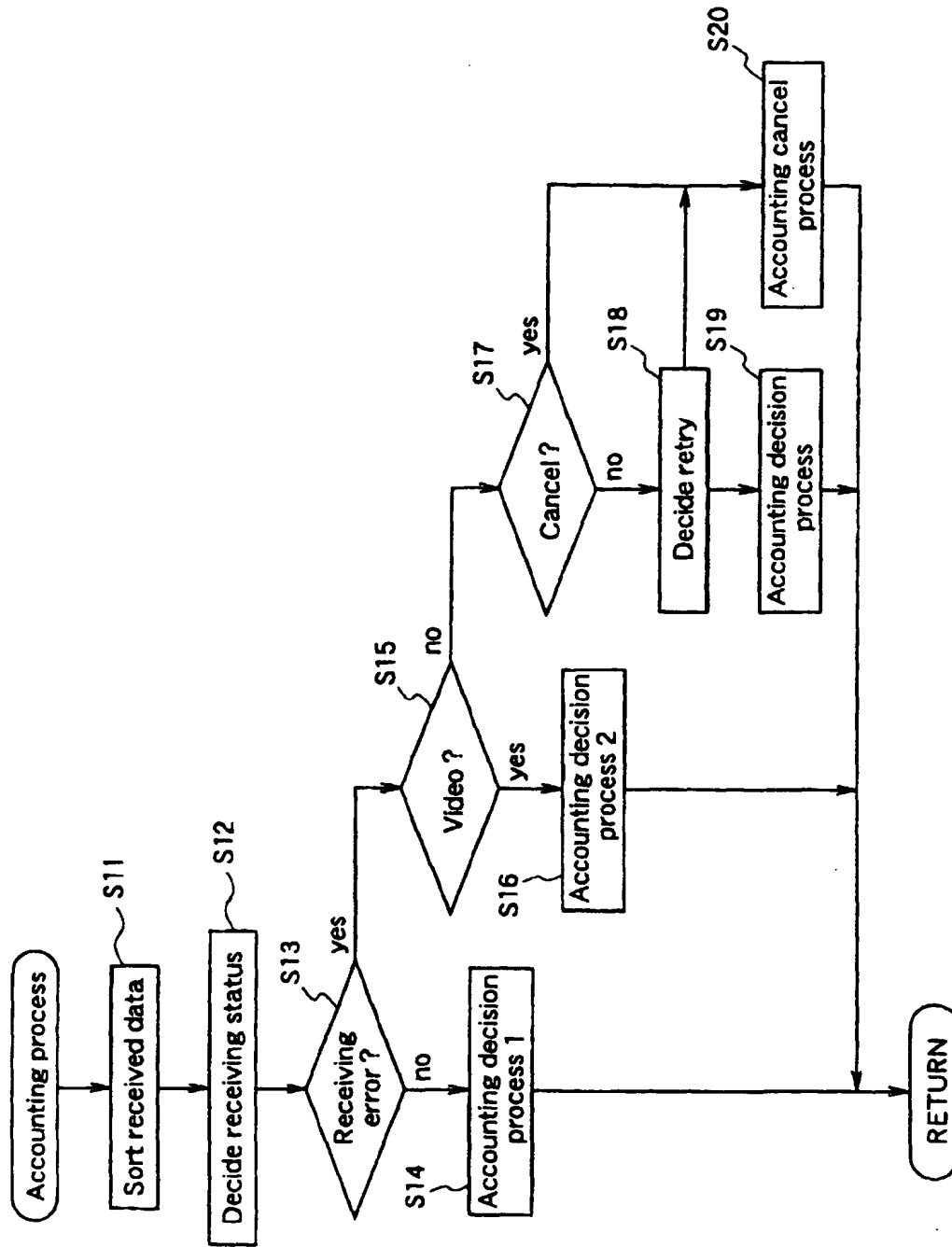
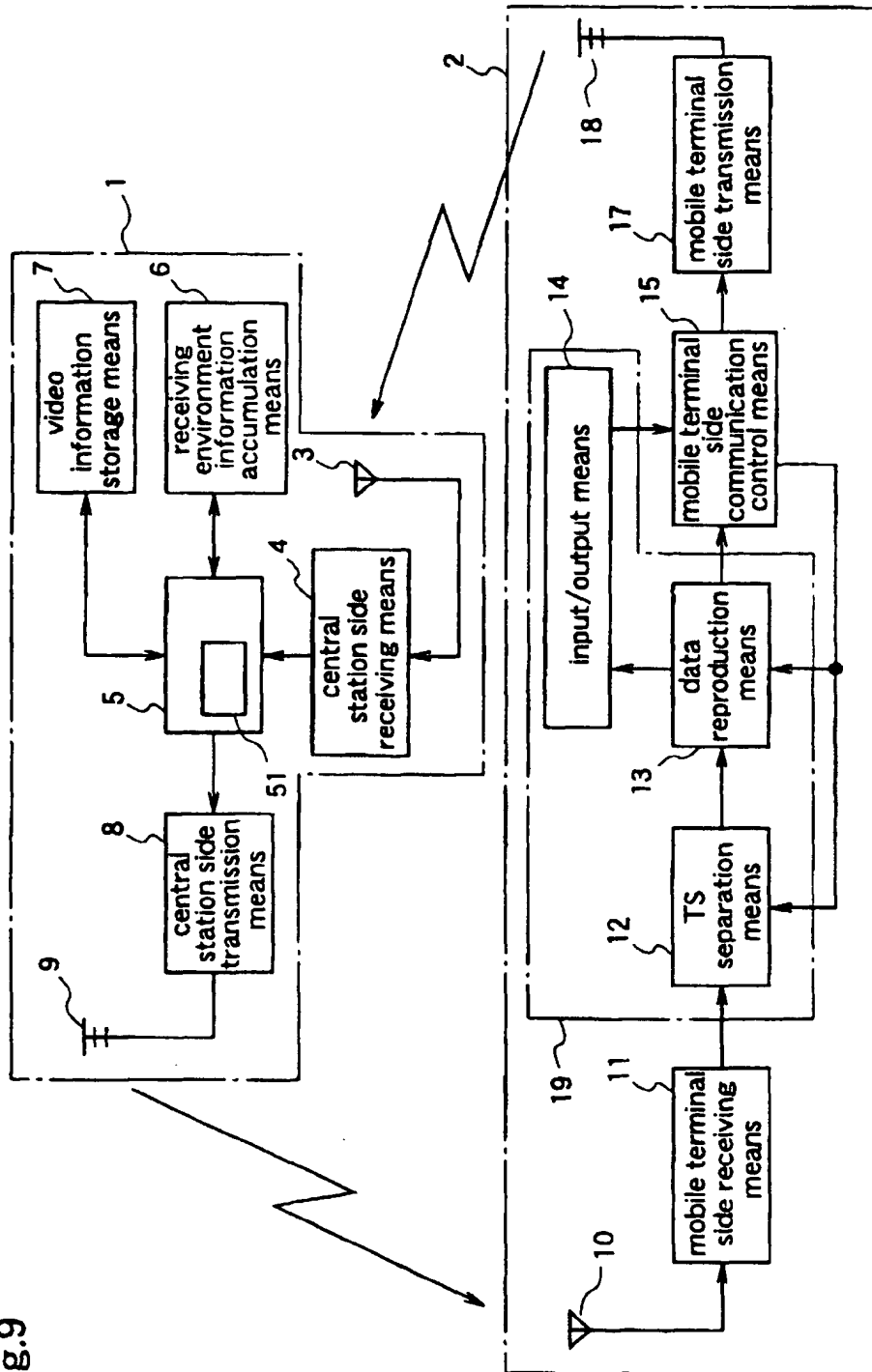


Fig.9



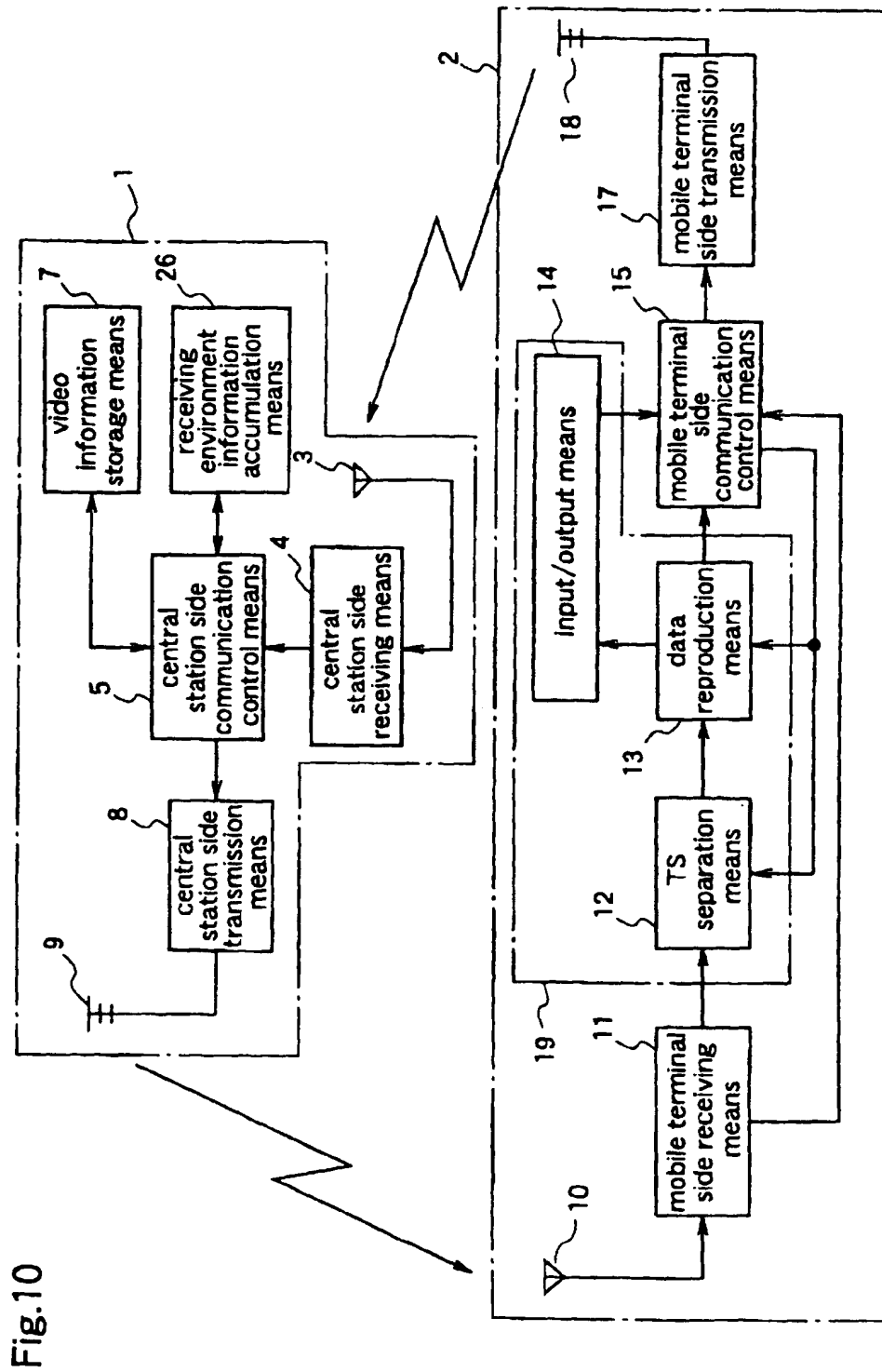


Fig.11

receiving environment		modulation method	data redundancy
fixed terminal		64QAM	small
mobile terminal	receiving error rate (low)	64QAM	small
	receiving error rate (medium) (including the case where receiving error rate is unclear)	QPSK	medium
	receiving error rate (high)	QPSK	large

Fig.12

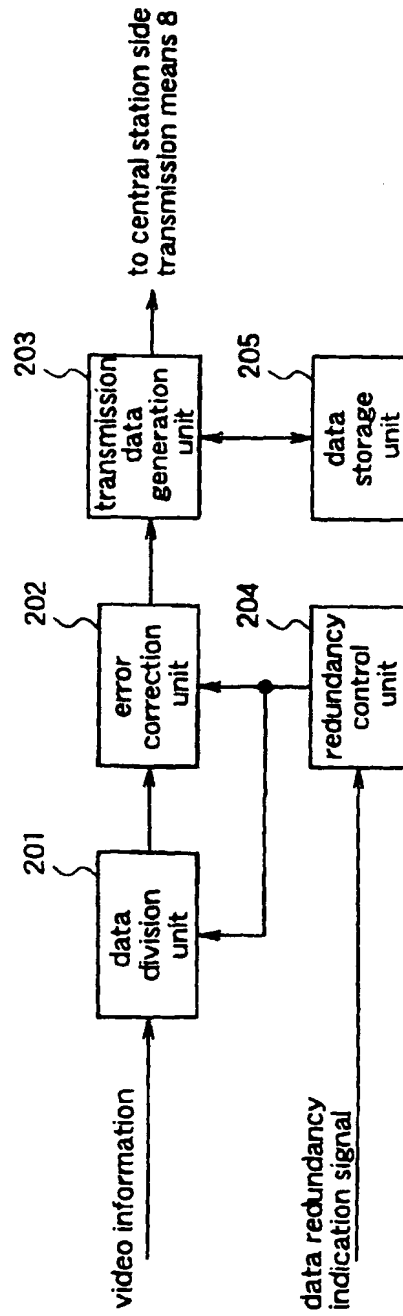




Fig.13 (a)



Fig.13 (b)



Fig.13 (c)

Fig.14

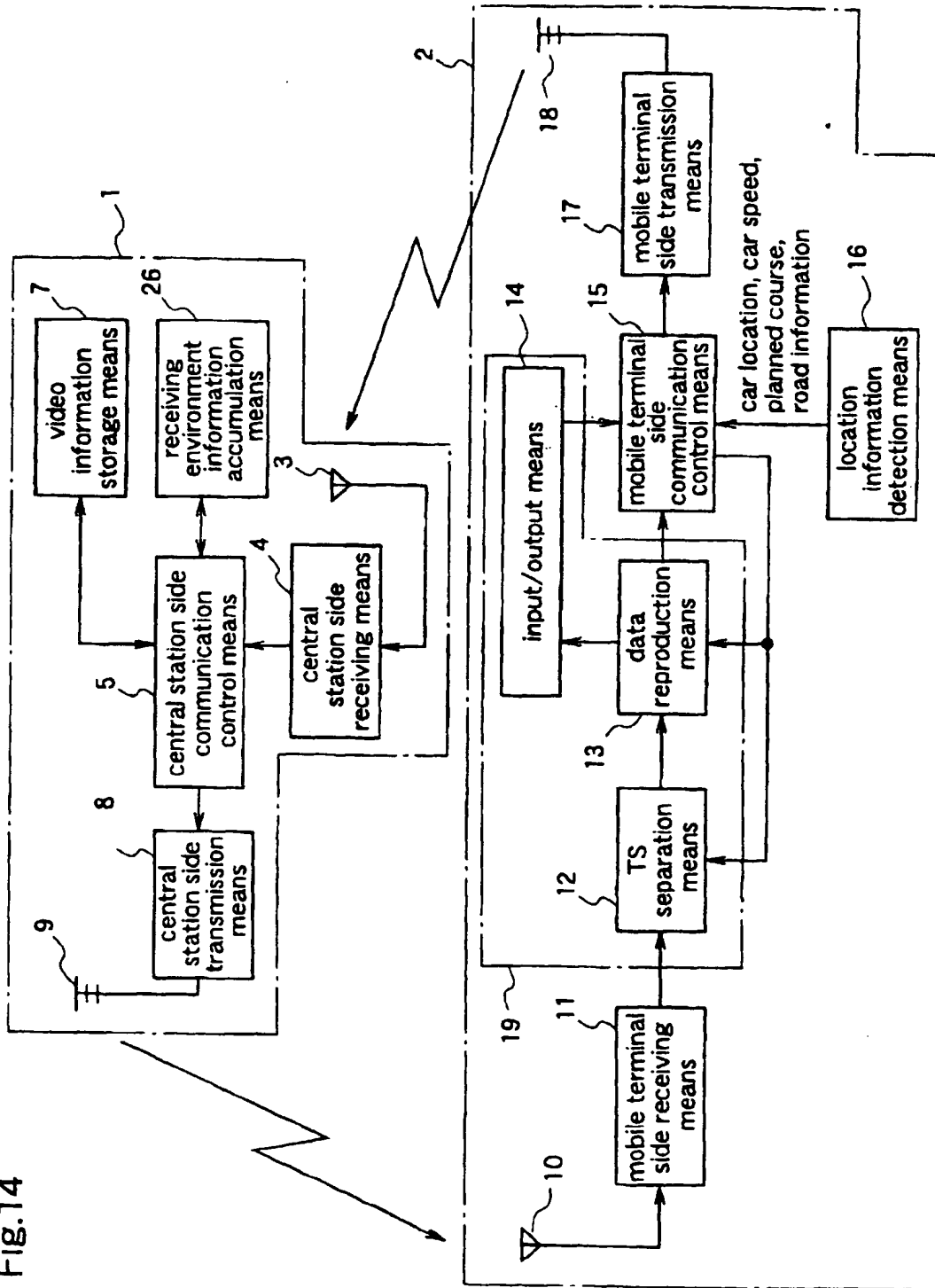


Fig.15

receiving environment			modulation	data redundancy
fixed terminal			64QAM	small
mobile terminal	"no tunnel"	car speed "high"	64QAM	small
		car speed "low"	QPSK	medium
	"tunnel"		reject distribution of video information	

Fig.16

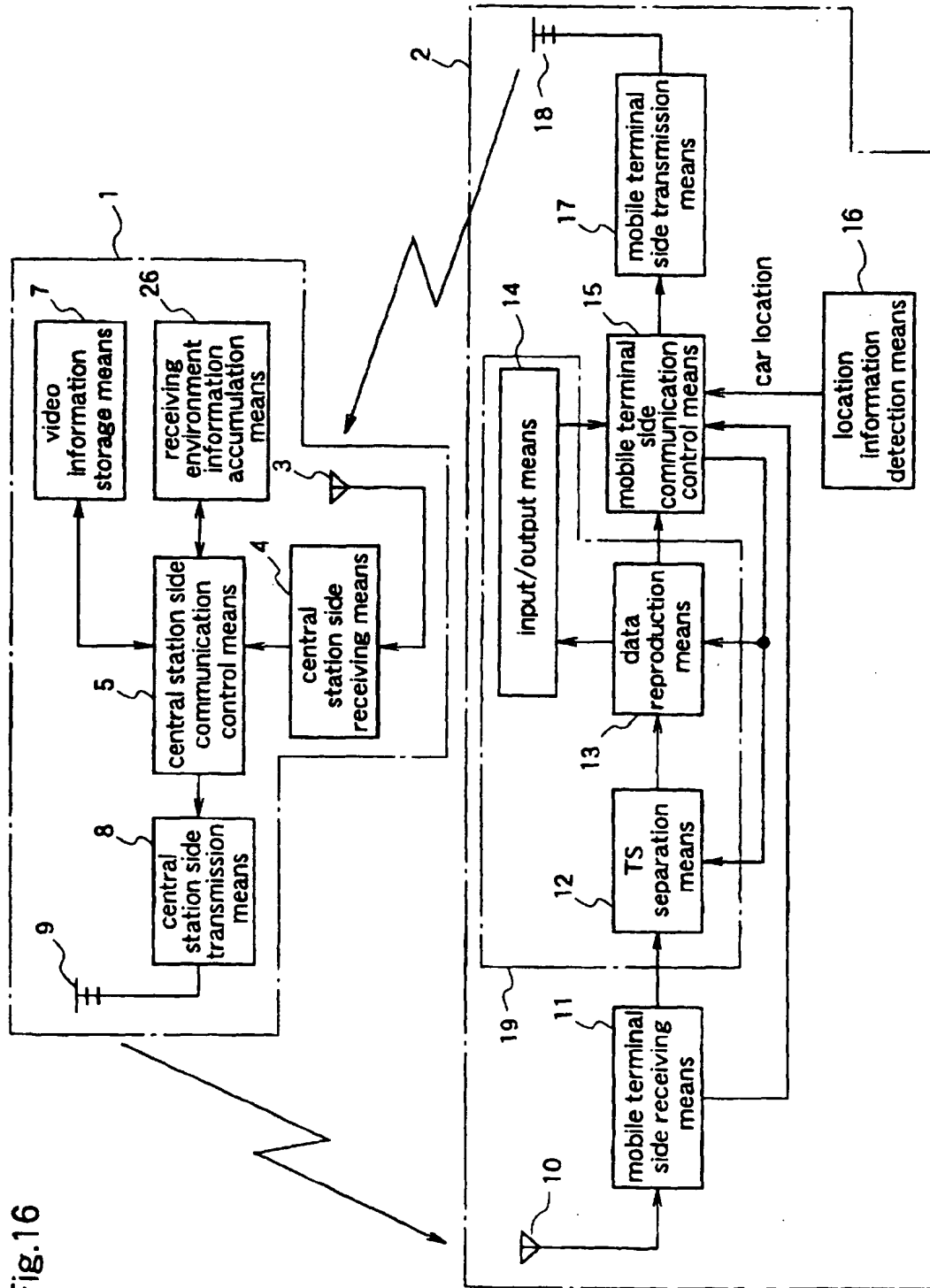


Fig.17

receiving environment		modulation	data redundancy
fixed terminal		64QAM	small
mobile terminal	predicted receiving error rate "low"	64QAM	small
	predicted receiving error rate "medium"	QPSK	medium
	predicted receiving error rate "high"	QPSK	large

Fig.18

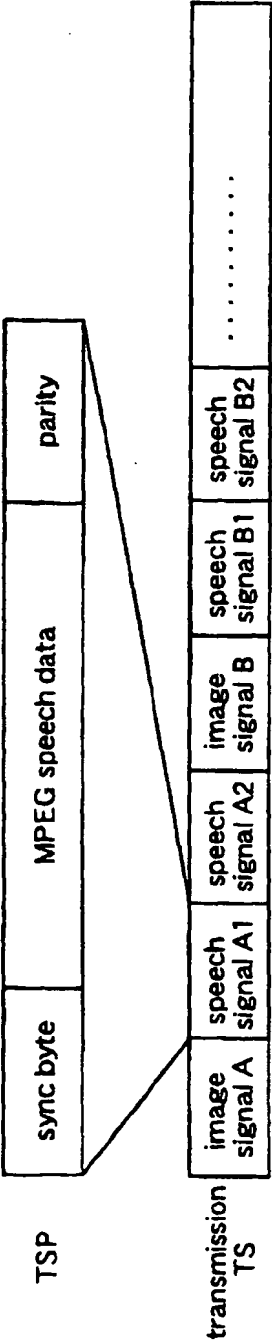


Fig.19

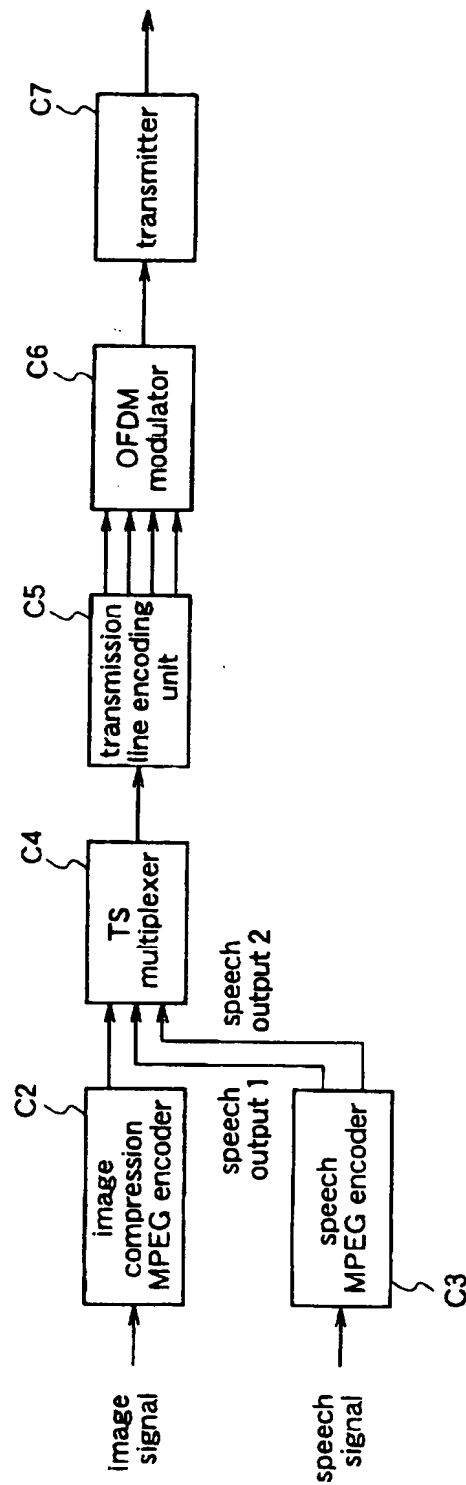


Fig.20

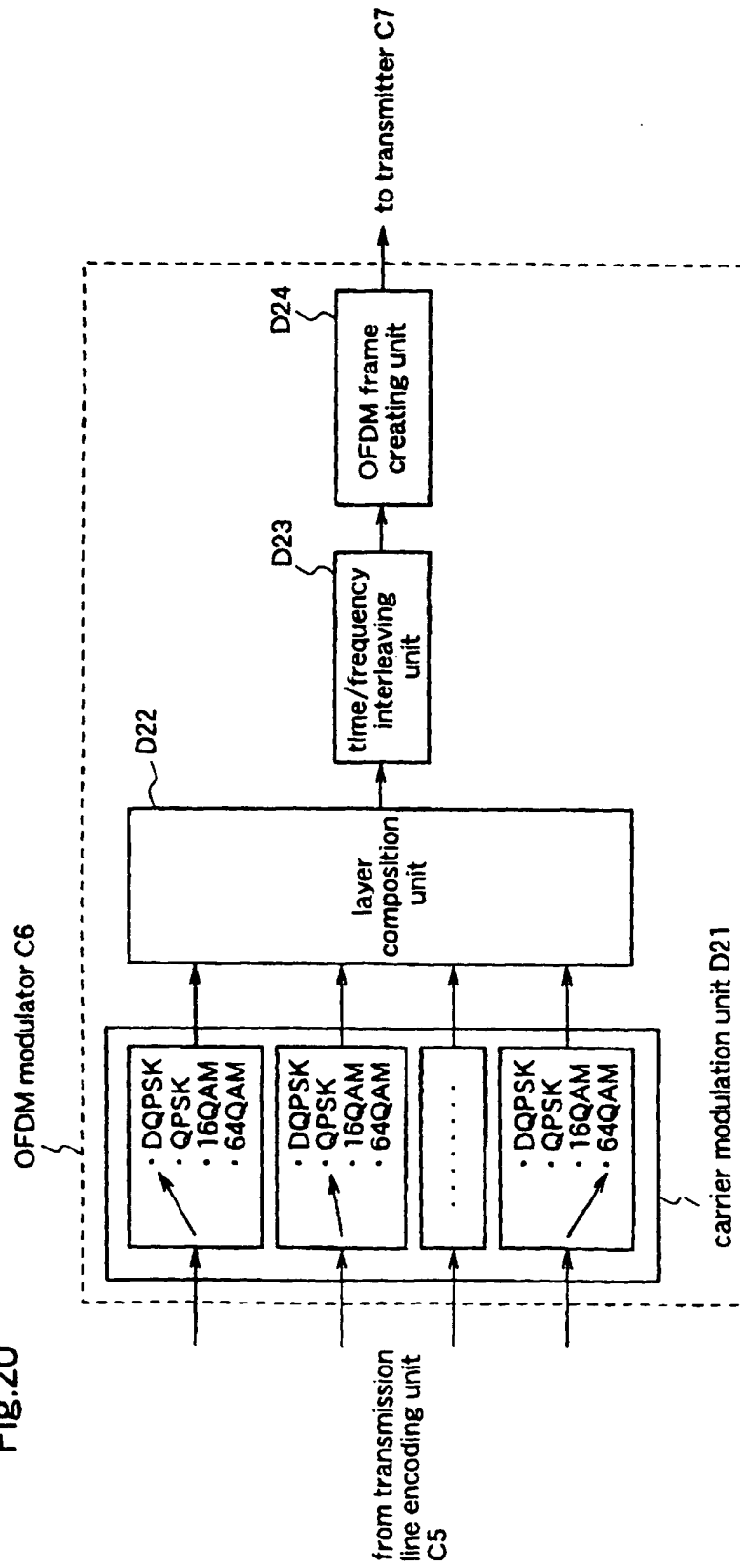


Fig.21

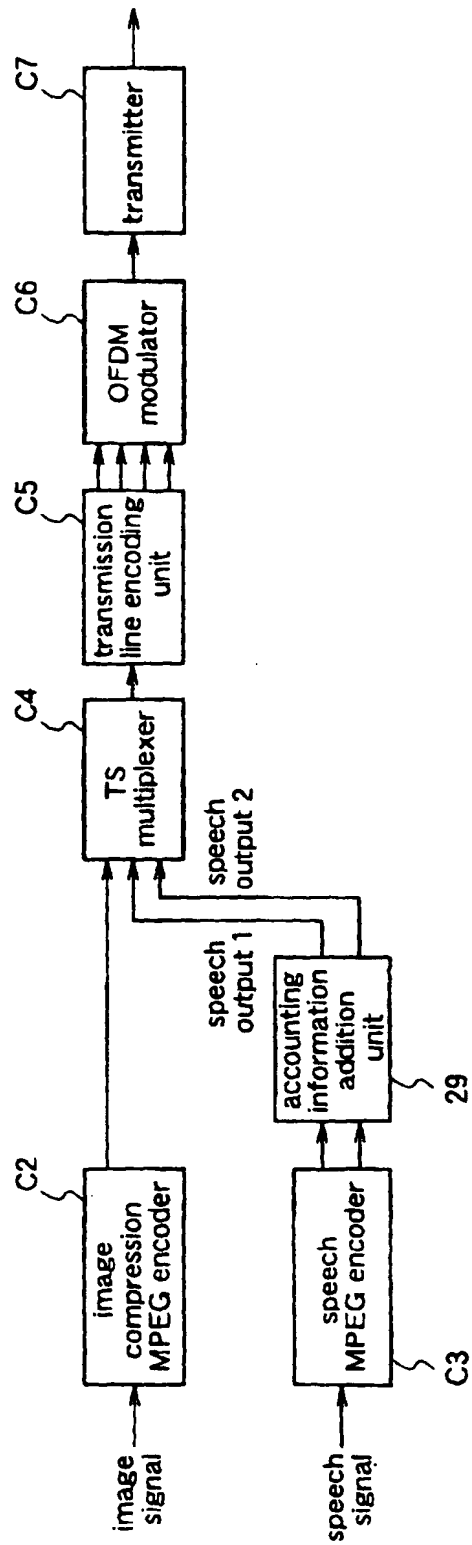


Fig.22

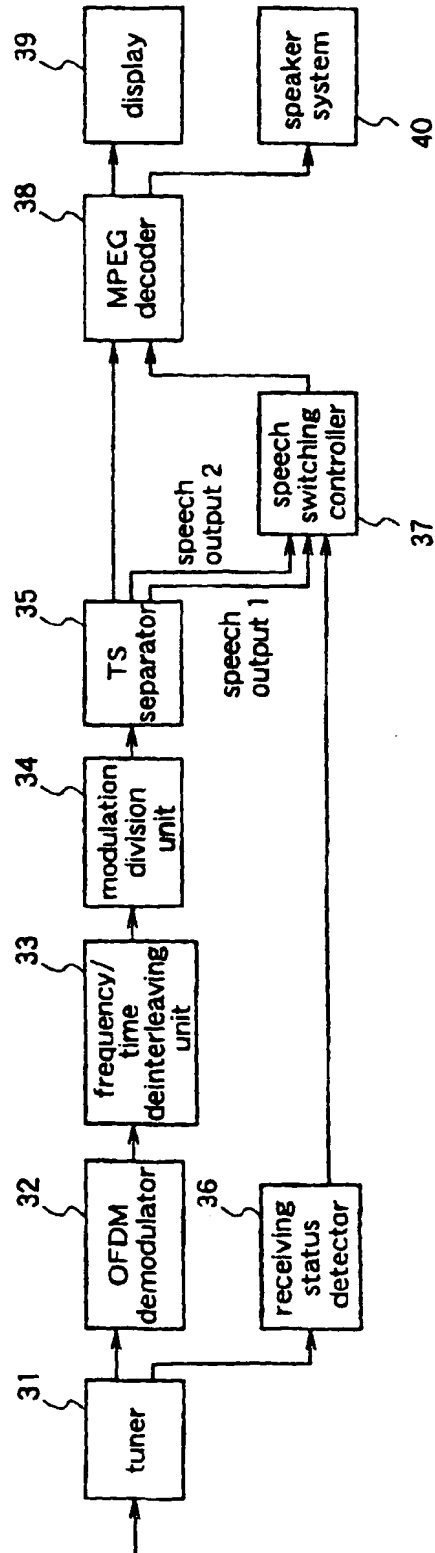


Fig.23

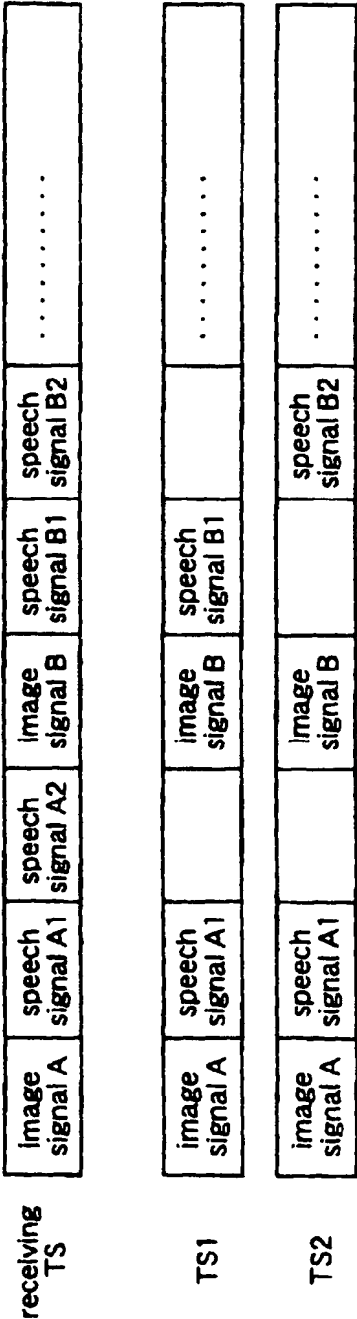
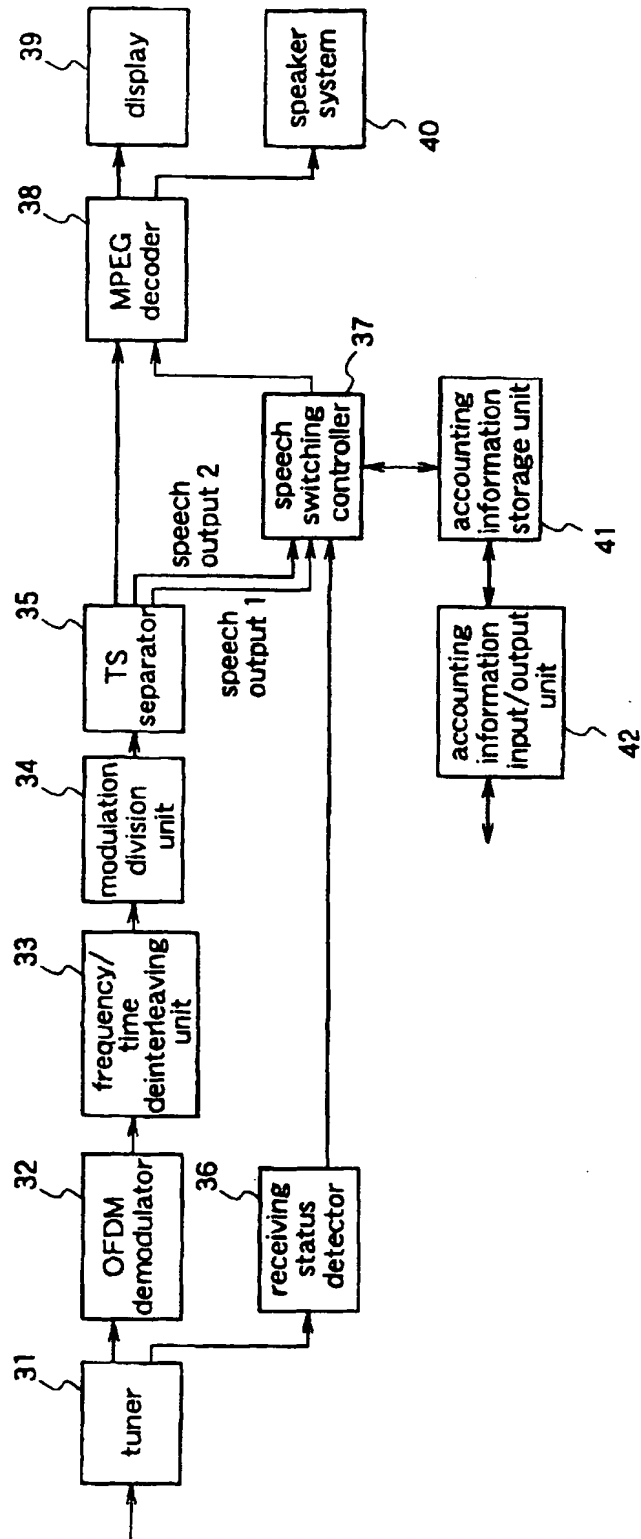


Fig.24



Prior Art

Fig.25 (a)

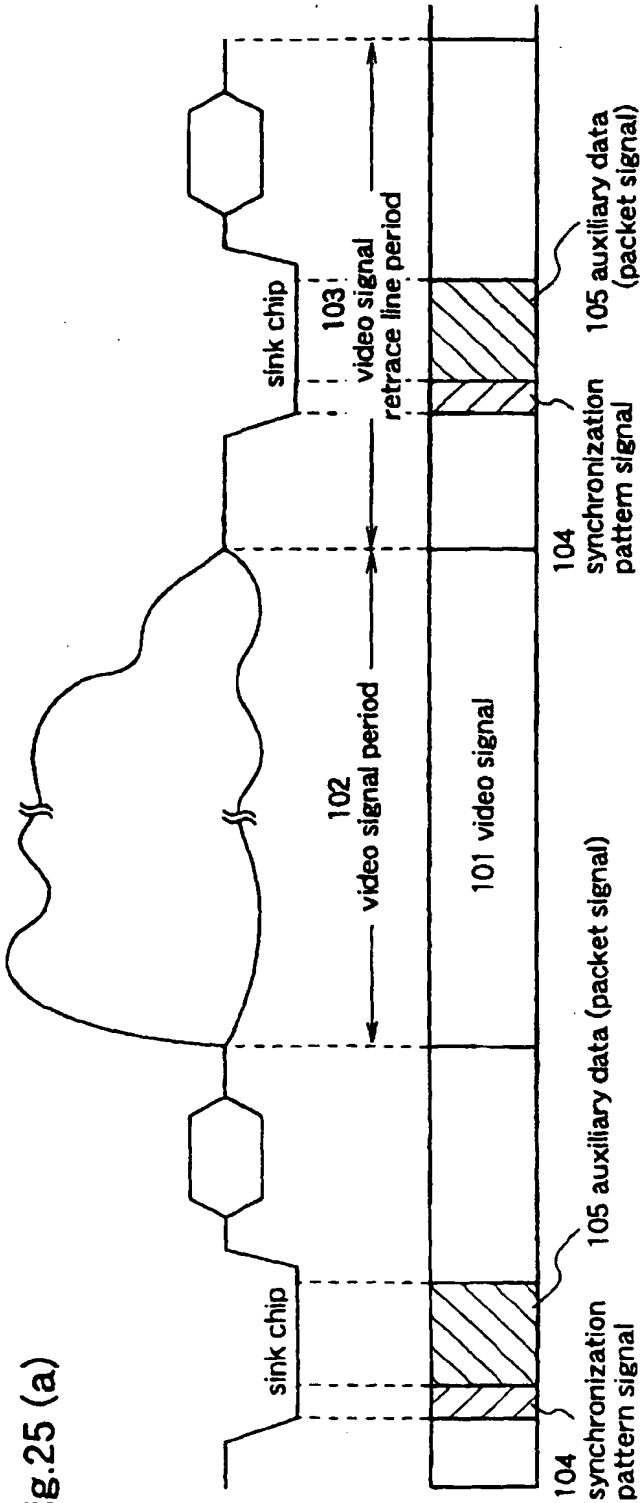


Fig.25 (b)

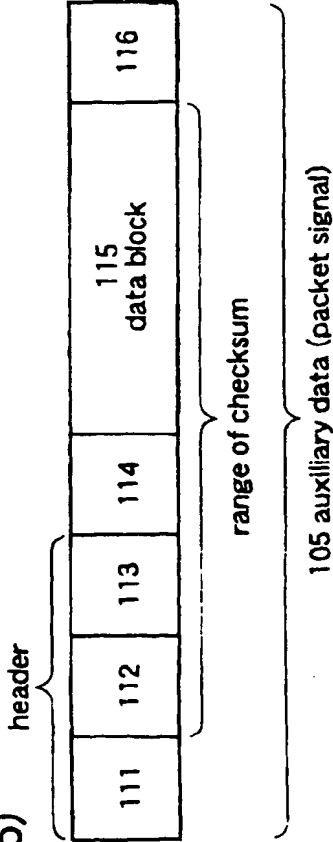


Fig.26 Prior Art

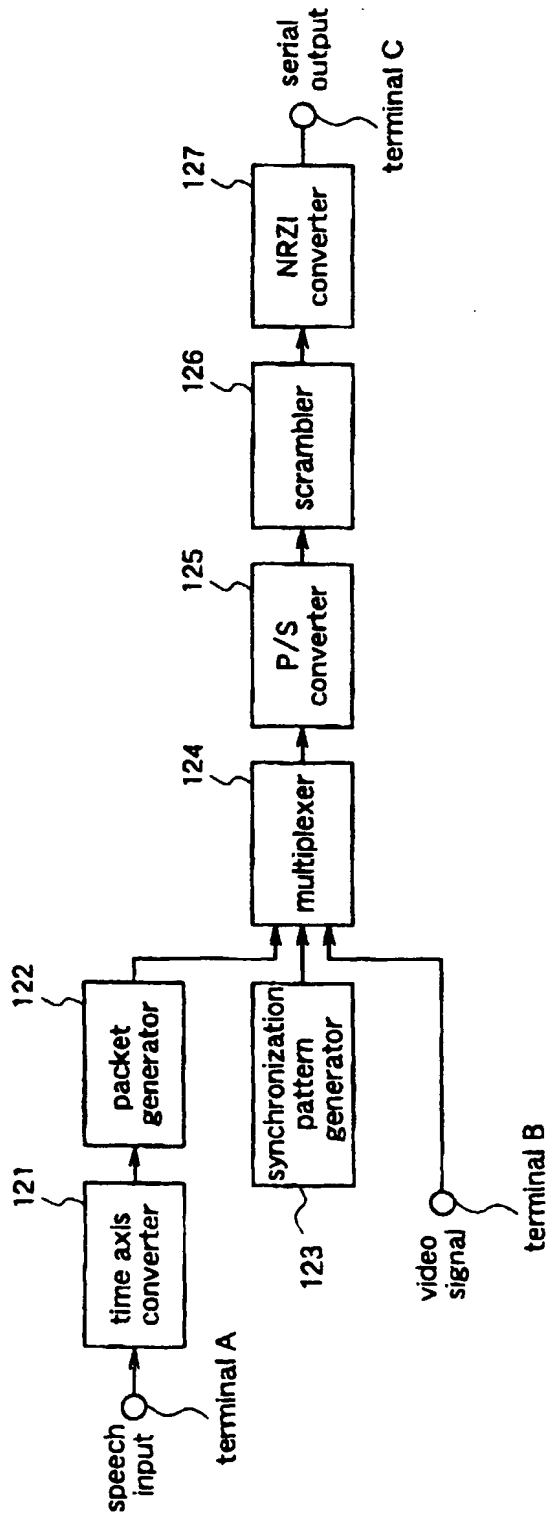
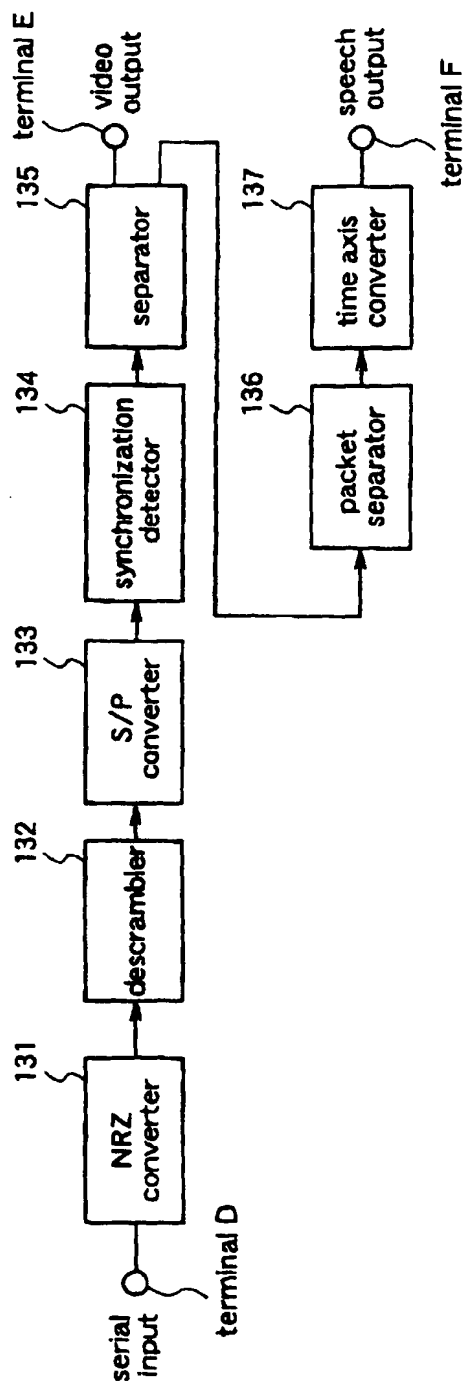


Fig.27 Prior Art



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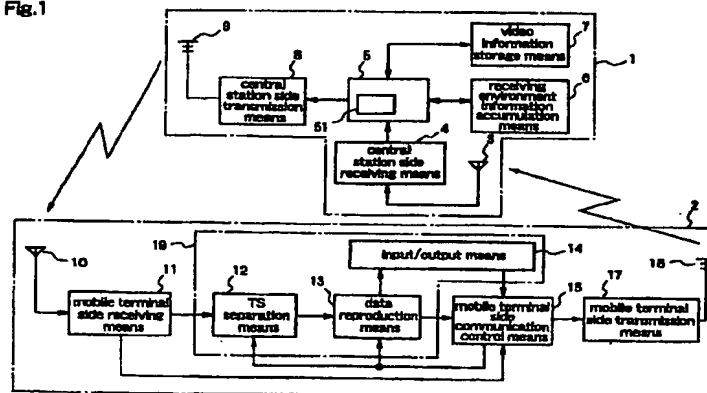
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(54) Method for distributing video information to mobile object by digital radio communication

(57) In a method for distributing video information from a central station unit placed on the ground to at least one mobile terminal unit comprising a terminal unit mounted on a mobile object, a request for distribution of the video information is transmitted as request information from the mobile terminal unit to the central station unit by radio communication, and the requested video information is distributed from the central station unit to the mobile terminal unit by digital radio communication. In this method, the video information is hierarchized, and part of the video information in a hierarchical rank according to read right information transmitted together

with the request from a mobile terminal is made readable. Further, accounting on the distributed video information in the central station is performed based on accounting information from the mobile terminal. Furthermore, the mobile terminal transmits information indicating the receiving environment of the terminal to the central station together with the request, and the central station changes the method for ensuring transmission quality relating to code errors in the video information distributed to the mobile terminal, in accordance with the receiving environment information.

Fig.1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 10 8383

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 26 January 2000	Examiner Greve, M
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)



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<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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